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LD2111130088 [Editorial Report]

Palestinian 'State': Recognition Issue

An Egyptian official statement carried by MENA 20 November affirmed that Egypt "recognizes the independent Palestinian state," noting that this clarification is in response to questions about Egypt's position by "some media circles."

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed "deep satisfaction and happiness" with the Egyptian statement, according to a PLO source cited by the agency.

In contrast, the Israeli Foreign Ministry voiced "regret" over the Egyptian move, Jerusalem radio noted, and the Israeli Cabinet urged those countries which seek peace to realize that the PLO is still the "major obstacle" to peace and to refrain from supporting its declarations.

Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's "recognition of the Palestinian state" during a meeting with 'Arafat in Baghdad, Voice of the Masses radio reported.

In East Beirut, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon broadcast a statement by General Michel 'Awn's cabinet affirming its "welcome and support" for the declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

Outside the Middle East, Beijing radio broadcast a PRC Foreign Ministry statement announcing the PRC's decision to recognize the Palestinian state.

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh confirmed that the USSR "has recognized the just proclaimed Palestinian state," according to Moscow Radio's English service.

Among further critical comment on the implications of the PNC resolutions, Libya's AL-JAMAHIRIYAH condemned the PLO's acceptance of Resolution 242, warning that the architects of this "high-treason" will meet the same fate as late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat, TANJUG noted.

Fatah "Provisional Command" leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muraghah likewise contended 'Arafat will suffer the same fate as Al-Sadat, Radio Monte Carlo disclosed.

Jordan's King Husayn welcomed the PNC resolutions in an interview broadcast by Amman television, maintaining that the PLO "has gone as far as it was asked to go" by the United States and that it is the Israeli and U.S. positions which remain intransigent. Husayn, who was speaking to a U.S. journalist, said he does not believe that more should be asked of the PLO at this stage.

Israel

Formation of Government—Likud has offered Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres the post of vice prime minister and a portfolio, but refused to offer Alignment the foreign affairs or Treasury portfolios, Jerusalem television disclosed.

Territories—Jerusalem radio reported that one West Bank resident was killed and another wounded by soldiers 20 November. The radio also reported that 11 people were injured in the territories in clashes with soldiers 19 November and in East Jerusalem 3 people were wounded by rubber bullets.

Lebanon

Response to Saddam—An official Hizballah source cited by the clandestine Voice of the Oppressed radio dismissed a call for dialogue by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, stressing that Hizballah will work to "chop off Saddam's fingers, which extend into the Lebanese arena."

Hizballah was reacting to a speech by the Iraqi leader in which he expressed readiness to hold a dialogue with "everyone in Lebanon," including "the group that belongs to the Iranian regime."

In his speech, broadcast by Baghdad radio 17 November, Saddam Husayn also announced his intention to mobilize Arab political pressure on Syria to make it withdraw from Lebanon.

In contrast to Hizballah, Gen 'Awn's cabinet viewed the Iraqi leader's remarks with "satisfaction" and "gratitude" according to a statement carried by Radio Free Lebanon.

SLA Leader—South Lebanese Army (SLA) commander Antoine Lahd remained in "critical but stable" condition over the weekend, IDF radio reported. According to the SLA's Voice of Hope radio, the woman who tried to assassinate Lahd has told investigators she was "forced" to carry out the act by threats to kill her and her family members if she refused.

Pakistan

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan will meet Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Islamic Jamhorri Ittehad (IJI), 22 November for consultations, Islamabad radio reported. According to AFP, Sharif is confident of forming the next government with the support of independents and center parties.

The PPP claimed there was widespread poll rigging in Punjab in favor of the IJI in the 18 November provincial elections, AFP reported. The results of the 18 November elections broadcast by Islamabad radio indicated the IJI won 108 seats in Punjab, while the PPP won 94. In Sind, the PPP won 67 against the IJI's 1. The IJI won more seats than the PPP in the Northwest Frontier Province and Baluchistan.

In other developments, an Afghan military plane was shot down over Pakistani airspace 20 November, killing all aboard, Islamabad radio reported.

Afghanistan

In a 20 November address to parliament broadcast by Kabul radio, President Najibullah welcomed the results of the elections in Pakistan. He said the people of Pakistan resolutely rejected the policies of militarists.

In military developments, 200 opposition members were killed in Konarha Province by a "new long-range" missile, BAKHTAR reported. Kabul radio contended the same type of missile killed 13 Pakistani soldiers and 2 Arab advisers in Paktia Province.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin claimed killing 22 government soldiers near Jalalabad, AFP reported. The agency also cited mujahidin sources who claimed Soviet fighter planes dropped gas bombs over Nangarhar Province 19 November.

Iran

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told government administrators in Ahvaz that Iran should change its previously "crude diplomacy" to avoid making enemies as it did in the past, IRNA reported. Also speaking on foreign policy, Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said in a Tehran radio interview that Iran is prepared to sit down and talk with Saudi Arabia to overcome the "great misunderstanding" that was created between them in Mecca last year. He also said there are no obstacles blocking expansion of relations with the Arab countries of the Gulf.

Regarding ties with the USSR, IRNA reported that a gas supply agreement was signed in Moscow 19 November. Majlis Deputy Speaker Mehdi Karrubi met the Soviet ambassador in Tehran and was told that Moscow feels an "urgent need" to promote its relations with Iran.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni compared relations between Iran and the United States to those between a wolf and a sheep and said "there cannot be a reconciliation," Tehran radio reported.

The remarks were cited by the Ayatollah's son in a message responding to an appeal by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter for assistance in the release of the U.S. hostages.

Sudan

The defense minister was not injured when his plane was hit by a SAM-7 missile 17 November on its departure from Waw, Omdurman National Unity Radio reported. The attack was denounced by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who said it confirmed that the rebels cannot be trusted, MENA reported.

Commenting on the recent peace agreement signed with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), SPLA leader John Garang said a cease-fire is one of four prerequisites to peace and will not take place if the other three are not met, the clandestine SPLA radio reported.

DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani also stated there is no cease-fire, MENA disclosed. He said first there must be a halt to the "hostile propaganda" between the two sides.

The Islamic National Front issued a statement rejecting the peace accord, MENA reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Klibi Releases Statement on Bush Election

LD1211162288 Algiers APS in English 1041 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Tunis, 12/11/88 (APS)—"We hope the election of President Bush will mark an important step for the Arab-Israeli conflict and particularly for the Palestinian cause," Chedli Klibi said in a text issued by the press services of the League of Arab States.

Klibi expressed hope that the new American President George Bush "will inaugurate his mandate with the Middle East dossier and start an initiative meant to ensure the safeguard of peace and security of all the friendly countries of the USA and of the Palestinian people, are of the rare peoples to be deprived from their rights". [sentence as received]

The secretary general of the Arab League said that the new head of the American executive "knew perfectly this issue (Palestinian) and he is able to undertake an action in conformity with international legacy and with the principles on which the American political philosophy is based".

League Sources Cited on Klibi Damascus Visit

PM1711115088 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Nov 88 p 2

[Unattributed "exclusive" report: "After Success of Klibi's Visit to Syria, Arab Ministerial Conference on Lebanon"]

[Text] Beirut—The Arab initiative on Lebanon is generally welcomed in the Arab world. According to Arab League sources, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi's visit to Damascus has been successful, with Syria and some other Arab states expressing willingness to cooperate with the other Arab sides in reactivating the situation and paving the way to the election of a new president—a matter to which the Arabs attach great importance, as the only way to stop the current trend to partition in Lebanon.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Klibi, on his second visit at the end of last week, informed Damascus that a large number of Arab states hoped Syria would show more interest in restoring peace in Lebanon through dialogue with all parties to the Lebanese conflict and make fresh efforts to make it possible to hold presidential elections in accordance with the wishes of all the Lebanese people but without any harm coming to Syria.

Syrian sources say Damascus told Klibi this time Syria would agree to a general Arab ministerial conference on Lebanon but is still opposed to an Arab summit conference for the same purpose.

The sources added that Syrian officials told Klibi Damascus still considers the U.S.-Syrian agreement the best way of electing a new Lebanese president, though it no longer insists on deputy Mikha'il Dahir as the only candidate, as previously agreed last September between the Syrians and Americans. The Syrians, however, make it a condition that the Lebanese Christians choose a candidate acceptable to Syria's allies in West Beirut.

The sources said that Chedli Klibi left Damascus with Syria's acceptance of the following:

1. An Arab meeting (at foreign minister level) to tackle the Lebanese crisis.

2. Syria agreed to the selection of a new compromise candidate chosen from a list of candidates supported by the majority of the Lebanese people and not posing a challenge to the Syrian presence in Lebanon.

The sources added this is the first time since the beginning of the Lebanese presidential crisis at the end of last September that Syria has taken such a lenient stand and the sources gave the following two reasons for this:

1. The Lebanese crisis was at an impasse with the insistence on Deputy Mikha'il Dahir, whose candidacy is still opposed by the Christian sides.

2. Certain influential Arab sides have put some pressure on Syria and so far 14 Arab states agree that to rescue Lebanon and prevent partition a new president must be elected.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Chedli Klibi will convey these developments to the other Arab capitals, particularly Beirut, where the Christians are expected to have agreed on a list of candidates, so they can submit the list to West Beirut for approval by the Lebanese Muslims—or their reservations regarding certain candidates—after which the list would be sent to Damascus for it to choose the candidate or candidates it considers suitable for shouldering Lebanon's responsibilities, carrying out the desired reforms, and establishing good relations with Syria in the context of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

The sources said the Christian deputies had asked Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr to speak on their behalf and to choose a number of candidates from among them, adding that Sfayr, who is currently in the Vatican, has already held contacts with the Vatican, Washington, and West Beirut, and briefed them on the names agreed upon by the Christians.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that influential circles in West Beirut suggested to Patriarch Sfayr that he should increase the number of names on the list to win Lebanese Muslim support. He did so and sent the list to the Americans, who sent a U.S. official to the Vatican for negotiations on the Lebanese elections, on the understanding that Washington would send the patriarch's list to Damascus for it to choose from the 11 names on it the candidates that enjoy Syria's confidence.

Arab diplomatic circles believe the Arab foreign ministers are likely to meet in Tunis on 24 November. They say the ministers have been notified they should each convey their government's views regarding the next Arab ordinary summit conference. The aim is to speed up the foreign ministers conference now that Syria has agreed to an ordinary summit conference, provided it is not exclusively devoted to discussion of the Lebanese situation.

According to these circles, Syria has conveyed this position to a prominent Arab state.

Arabsat Board Begins Meeting, Discusses Plans

JN1211172288 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, Nov. 12 (GNA)—The 48th meeting of the board of the Arab Organization for Space Communications Arabsat opened here today.

In an inaugural speech 'Abdallah Hamad al-'Attiya, deputy board chairman of Qatar Public Telecommunications Corporation (Q-TEL), called for intensifying efforts and promoting joint cooperation among Arabsat member states to achieve the cherished national targets.

He noted that the establishment of Arabsat came in response to a joint conviction by all Arab countries of the necessity of coping [as received] enormous progress in the telecommunications field and the need for setting up a communications network linking the Arab world countries.

Later Arabsat Board Chairman Dr Faysal Ahmed Zaydan has underlined that Arabsat has taken great strides of progress noting that communications among the Arab countries with the use of the Arabsat has reached 30 per cent of the Arabsat total capacity.

The week-long meeting will consider ARABSAT budget for 1989, measures to launch the 3rd Arabsat and a set of organizational administrative and financial matters.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Welcomes Egypt's Recognition of State

NC2011133388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1328 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Tunis, 20 Nov (MENA)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has welcomed Egypt's declaration of its recognition of the Palestinian state.

A responsible PLO source in Tunis has disclosed that 'Arafat was informed about this recognition as soon as it was announced in Cairo today and that the Palestinian leader expressed his deep satisfaction and happiness with this stand. The source stressed that Egypt always has supported the Palestinian issue and was in the vanguard of countries that quickly supported the PNC resolutions in Algiers.

Unified Leadership of 'Uprising' Issues Statement

JN2011142288 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the occupied Arab territiories has issued a statement praising the declaration of an independent Palestinian state by the PNC during its session in Algiers last week.

The statement called for staging general strikes in the occupied Arab territories during the next 2 weeks to express solidarity with the detainees following the Zonist authorities' decision to deport them at the end of their prison terms.

The statement also warned those who deal with the Zionist occupation authorities, stressing the uprising will punish them sooner of later.

PNSF, Communists Denounce PNC Resolutions

JN2011092288 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] The leaders and cadres of the PNSF and the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party held a meeting Friday night at Martyr Khalid Akar Hall in Al-Baddawi Camp in Tripoli, northern Lebanon. The conferees discussed the consequences of the Algiers PNC resolutions which threaten great harm to our people's struggle and our kinfolk's heroic uprising in Palestine.

At the end of the meeting, the conferees addressed a cable to the leaders of the PNSF and the Communist Party. The following is text of the cable:

Brothers and comrades, leaders of the PNSF and the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party, revolutionary greetings.

We, leaders, cadres, and strugglers of the PNSF and the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party meeting in northern Lebanon, believing in the justice of our cause and struggle, represented by our people's historical right to fight for liberation, repatriation, and establishment of their independent Palestinian national state on the whole of their national soil, and convinced of the gravity of the phase through which our national cause is passing due to the consequences of the resolutions passed by the conferees in Algiers on 10 November 1988 [date as heard] which included recognition of Resolution 242 which approves the legitimacy of the Zionist entity over our Palestinian land, ask you to immediately take the following steps:

1. Unify all our national groups, forces, and figures to confront and topple the new plot against our cause by drawing up a program which realizes this confrontation and guarantees for our national cause and the revolution their continuity and victory.

2. Set up a national forum which adheres to the PLO's National Charter and works for continuing the struggle and revolution and escalating armed struggle until our people's aims are achieved.

3. Back and develop our people's heroic uprising in Palestine so it can achieve the objectives it has set for itself, which would would mean achieving what was specified in the PLO's Charter.

4. Escalate and perpetuate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland as the basic form of our people's struggle.

5. Strengthen Palestinian national alliances with the forces of the Arab liberation movement and the progressive nationalist Arab regimes.

6. Bolster the ties of friendship and alliance with the progressive liberation forces in the world.

We pledge to our masses we will remain loyal to the course of struggle and revolution for whose sake thousands of the sons of our Palestinian and Arab people have fallen martyrs. Shame and disgrace to the traitors and defeatists. Victory is for our people and struggling peoples.

[Signed] The PNSF and the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party in northern Lebanon.

Palestinian-Syrian Reconciliation 'Imminent'

JN1911180188 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 18 Nov 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Capitals, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Agencies—Palestinian sources have disclosed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that high-level contacts are currently being held between the PLO leadership and Syria.

The sources pointed out that the results of these contacts are encouraging and that a reconciliation between the two sides is imminent.

The sources said the Syrian leaders will invite PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to visit Syria.

The sources affirmed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that Syria recognized the Palestinian state and informed the PLO leadership of this recognition. These sources also indicated that intensive negotiations are also being currently held on the situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon.

In a related development, the Palestinian sources said 'Arafat will visit Cairo tomorrow and will also visit Amman soon. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Government Program, Changes Ratified by Assembly

LD1911193688 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Excerpts] In Algeria, the greatest event today was the presentation of the government program, after the changes inserted according to the discussions of the deputies, to the National People's Assembly for ratification. The government program was the subject of discussions for 4 days and was ratified today with an overwhelming majority. Abdelmoumen Baccar reports with the details directly from the assembly:

As mentioned, the new government, headed by Kasdi Merbah, obtained the confidence of the members of the National People's Assembly with an overwhelming majority. Briefly, here are the results: 291 deputies were present; 267 voted yes; 21 deputies voted no; there were 2 abstentions; and 4 deputies were absent. [passage omitted]

The voting was after Kasdi Merbah took the rostrum to present the changes and answer some of the deputies' questions, even those not about the government program. After that, Rabah Bitat, president of the National People's Assembly, made a speech in which he congratulated the government for the confidence of the deputies, and said to the 22 members of the government, headed by Kasdi Merbah: From this evening or tomorrow, you can go to your work. [passage omitted]

Briefly, the additions to the government program concern posts, communications, rural development, education, training, social problems, austerity in the administration, national cadres, justice, information, culture, and other points. They were added to the government program, as they were originally not given enough attention, as the addresses of the deputies illustrated through 4 days of general discussion. [passage omitted]

'Centralists' Issue 'Reform' Document

LD1811173388 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] The process of political reform proposed by the president on 10 October, begun by the November referendum, continues to arouse reactions and provide food for thought. Yesterday, a delegation of political figures, led by Ben Youssef Benkhadda, former president of the Algerian provisional government, submitted to APS a document presented for national consideration on freedom and democracy.

According to this document—signed by so-called Centralists—the Algerian people, since independence, have practically been deprived of the right to speak or exercise sovereignty. According to this document, the authorities, before any proposal, should have started a dialogue with those who express opinions different to their own, and should subsequently have submitted concrete reforms, which had previously been debated, to a popular vote.

After stressing the necessary democratization of the country, based on freedom of expression, the Centralists recall what they consider to be the prerequisite for allowing a concrete approach to current problems, while avoiding—they say—certain imported ideological and theoretical visions which cause illusion, setbacks, and failure. Recalling the need for an immediate proclamation of freedom of expression, the document considers this the first condition for the respect of the sovereignty, dignity, and will of the people.

The document is signed by Benkhadda, M'barak, Djirani, Ali Abdelhamid, Abderrahman Kiouane, Houcince Lahoual, and Belkacem Rajah.

PLO's 'Arafat Talks With Foreign Minister

LD2011025088 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] An Algerian-Palestinian working session was held today in Algeria under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat and Boualem Bessaieh. During the meeting, Arab and international reaction following the proclamation by the PNC in Algiers of an independent Palestinian state on 15 November were reviewed. In this respect, the two sides expressed deep satisfaction over the Arab and international response to this historical resolution, particularly at the number of recognitions that have so far been announced.

The two sides also expressed their conviction that this historical resolution has given a decisive impetus to the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. This should strengthen the Palestinian position within the context of present efforts aimed at achieving a just and permanent peace in the Middle East region through an effective international peace conference under UN auspices. The two sides blessed the rallying of the Arab homeland around the Palestinian cause, the cause of destiny of the Arabs, as embodied in the comprehensive recognitions of the independent Palestinian state.

In the context of the closing of Arab ranks, the two sides noted with satisfaction the recognition by the Arab Republic of Egypt of the independent state of Palestine. In view of its special circumstances, this constitutes an important element in joint Arab work and a strengthening of Arab solidarity with the holy Palestinian cause.

The two sides thanked the states of the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, and the OAU for their quick response in recognizing the independent State of Palestine and for welcoming or recognizing the independence proclamation on the part of the socialist community and other friendly states.

Algeria and the State of Palestine call upon all members of the international community to recognize the independent state of Palestine in acknowledging the international legitimacy and the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people on its national soil. In doing so, Algeria and the state of Palestine rest upon their previous principled stances toward the just cause of the Palestinian people and serve international peace and security.

[Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1830 GMT on 19 November adds that taking part in this meeting were "Messrs Nayif Hawatimah; Hani al-Hasan; Abu al-'Izz al-Dajjani, Palestinian ambassador to Algeria; and Foreign Ministry officials."]

Egypt

Mubarak on Recognition of Palestinian State

NC1911112888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1007 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Banha, 19 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak declared today that Egypt has supported all PNC resolutions including recognition of the Palestinian state [misr ayyadat jami' qararat al-majlis al-watani al-filastini bima fiha al-i'tiraf bi al-dawlah al-filastiniyah].

In a statement to reporters while visiting Banha City this morning, President Mubarak said: We will discuss the PNC resolutions.

He pointed out that he will listen to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat when he visits Cairo. 'Arafat will provide some private details pertaining to these resolutions, and they will discuss some future steps.

President Mubarak asserted that the PNC has adopted very good resolutions. He said: They have recognized UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, established a Palestinian state, [and passed resolutions pertaining to] the confederation with Jordan and the renunciation of terrorism. He noted that all these are advanced and excellent steps and must be exploited to make progress so that we may settle the Palestinian question.

President Mubarak said: Some countries cast doubt on our position when we said that we supported the PNC resolutions, and they claimed that Egypt did not extend recognition.

The president added: It is our cause. We say that we have supported all the PNC resolutions, including recognition of the Palestinian state.

President Mubarak continued: We will hold consultations with our brother, His Majesty King Husayn, as well as with our brothers in Saudi Arabia and with other Arab leaders to reactivate the cause and give impetus to the peace process. We will wait for the new U.S. President's assumption of power and for the formation of the new Israeli Government in order to find better prospects for progress.

The president added: There must be continuous consultations between Egypt and the PLO and between the PLO and Jordan and the rest of the Arab leaders.

Following his inauguration of the High Technology Institute in Banha, President Mubarak said: I wish we had long had such an institute for instruction in practical education. He noted that we have lacked this kind of education.

President Mubarak noted that India has surpassed Egypt in this sphere since the 1960s. It has many such institutes and is constantly developing them. He said that such institutes have a very good reputation in the whole world.

Commenting on cooperation between Egypt and India, the president said: We began cooperation with India long ago. This cooperation then stopped for one reason or another. Now, thank God, we are using the most modern technological methods.

The president expressed hope that the institute will produce graduates needed by the Egyptian markets. He pointed out that an engineering college graduate has a certain specialization while a graduate from the new institute has a different practical specialization, which both complement each other.

'Abd al-Majid on Statement

NC1911144288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1416 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Egypt's statement on supporting the declaration of a Palestinian state—which aims to achieve peace, convene an international conference based on Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, guarantee the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and refrain from terrorism—is stronger than a conventional recognition of a Palestinian state. This came in a statement by 'Abd al-Majid to reporters today.

PLO Official on Statements

NC1911155788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—PLO Representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal said that President Husni Mubarak's statements this morning and what Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said during his meeting today with the Arab ambassadors answer all the questions in Egypt and the Arab world that cast doubt on Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state.

He added that these statements show that Egypt recognizes the Palestinian state and recognizes the document read by leader Yasir 'Arafat. Such a clarification answers these questions, as it was given within an Arab context and in the presence of all the Arab ambassadors. He noted that Arab Egypt, through President Mubarak and Dr 'Abd al-Majid, has always stressed its absolute support for the political statement and its contents.

In a statement today, Sa'id Kamal said that this constitutes the start of a new effort to restore the Palestinians' national rights, particularly as the Palestinian uprising and the steadfast Palestinian people in the occupied territories are still daily receiving new recognitions of the Palestinian state.

Sa'id Kamal said: Yasir 'Arafat will make a quick tour to consult with the Arab brothers. The coming logical and acceptable steps will also be decided on in reply to the Israeli attempts to place obstacles before the various countries' recognition of the Palestinian state. Foreign ambassadors will be invited to convince them of this. He added that these steps will strengthen and support the Palestinian people's struggle and will mark the transition from the phase of revolutionary struggle to the phase of political and diplomatic struggle.

Concluding his statement, Sa'id Kamal said he expects Yasir 'Arafat to arrive in Cairo within the coming few hours. He added that 'Arafat was expected in Cairo yesterday, but for the death of a Palestinian leader, struggler Tal'at Ya'qub.

Recognition 'Affirmed'

NC2011122788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt has affirmed that it recognizes the independent Palestinian state, in accordance with the points mentioned in the political statement issued at the recent PNC session in Algiers.

An Egyptian official source has stated that Egypt regards this recognition as having taken effect as of 15 November and hopes that this constructive step will serve the cause of peace and stability in the region.

The following is the text of the official spokesman's statement: Despite the clarity of the statement issued by the Arab Republic of Egypt on 15 November, in which it expressed its support for the declaration of the Palestinian state as stipulated in the decision issued by the PNC on the same day, and despite the fact that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has repeated more than once, specifically on 17 and 19 November, that Egypt's support for the independence of the Palestinian state is stronger than the recognition, statements that were clear and decisive in their implications, some media circles, nevertheless, have continued to raise questions about Egypt's position and whether it included recognition of the newly born Palestinian state.

To make this position very clear—given that support is stronger than recognition because it is a more advanced and positive stand—the Arab Republic of Egypt, which has been among the leading forces that championed, in solidarity and coordination with its Arab sister states, the call in all forums to support the Palestinian people and to enable them to exercise their legitimate rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination and to establish their state on their land, affirms that it recognizes the independent Palestinian state, in accordance with the points mentioned in the political declaration issued at the latest PNC meeting in Algiers, and regards this recognition as having taken effect as of 15 November 1988.

While it blesses this constructive step, Egypt hopes that it will serve the cause of peace and stability in the region.

Envoy Conveys Peres Message to 'Abd al-Majid

NC2011153988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has received a message from his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres. The message was conveyed by Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Shim'on Shamir, who said that the message dealt with Israel's stand on the PNC declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

Paper Cited on 'Deep' Relations With PLO

NC2111084588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR has emphasized the deep and genuine relations between Egypt and the PLO, saying that Egyptian blood has created these relations by four wars in which Egypt offered the most precious thing of all, the souls of its youth. In today's commentary, the paper notes that some parties feel angered by any rapprochement and cohesion between Egypt and the PLO. They hasten to utter rumors and disseminate news, hoping to create a crack in the close ties that still link Egypt to the Palestinian people.

The paper says that these suspect parties have made use of the fact that the official Egyptian statement, which included the strongest support for the birth of the Palestinian state, did not include the word "recognition" of the new state. The paper adds that these parties exploited this to raise as much doubt as possible about the true Egyptian stand, which has long since called for this measure, took part in coordinating it, and paved the way to adopt it at the appropriate time. The paper points out that this technique has failed to achieve its malicious aims because what is between Egypt and the Palestinian people is much stronger and deeper than that affected by such [word indistinct] implications.

The paper notes that the current situation requires a unified stand supporting the historical resolutions, which constitute an important turning point in the course of the Palestinian struggle. The paper says that those who are behind this skepticism are aware that consultations and contacts between Cairo and the Palestinians have been and still are continuing. Evidence of this, the paper adds, is PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's forthcoming visit to Cairo to discuss with President Mubarak future steps to give momentum to the peace process and to consolidate the efforts to activate the Palestinian cause.

It notes that 'Arafat's representatives and associates have asserted that Egypt's position represents the new beginning to retrieve the Palestinian people's rights. The paper says that those who believe that their conspiracies to cause strife between Egypt and the Palestinians are the only contribution possible for resolving the Palestinian issue should become reasonable because they have lost any hope for realizing their malignant intentions.

AL-AHRAM on Palestinian State, Recognition

Hails Palestinian State

JN1811204288 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Nov 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Two Rejections"]

[Text] Despite the hue and cry by various capitals to cover the resolutions issued by the PNC during its uprising session in Algiers, it is believed that this declaration of the Palestinian state will have far-reaching effects in all directions as it simply constitutes a new historic turning point in the course of the issue and represents a concrete and undeniable fact.

The Palestinian struggle will gain new weight through this decision, which will produce responsible work in channels with which the world has so far been unfamiliar both in its outlook on the issue and its dealing with the struggle and its movement. If the many opportunities and possibilities it opens are properly exploited, the decision will be a landmark for a charted course in the future, in which previous landmarks will become obsolete like the Israeli-U.S. agreements on certain issues.

For example, Israel absolutely rejects any Palestinian individualist, organizational, or popular entity while the United States insists on not dealing with the PLO or acknowledging Palestinian rights determined by one side. This is no longer justifiable as this policy was adopted under certain circumstances 13 years ago.

The weakness of this policy seems clear from the way in which the events have unfolded since that time. If the United States has made any dealing with the PLO conditional on the latter's irrevocable, explicit, official, prior, and guaranteed recognition of Israel, how will it be logical to meet this condition at a time when Israel absolutely rejects and constantly suppresses any form of Palestinian entity? Why is prior recognition demanded from one side and not from the other? And why do they not begin with an implicit recognition to facilitate it for the Israeli side at least, especially since the Palestinian side is fully prepared for it and has voiced this implicit recognition on several occasions? Following the implicit recognition, gradual and collective diplomatic steps and efforts should be made to declare it clearly and on a reciprocal basis.

If intentions are honest, many ways can be used to reach the required reconciliation, and there are many other ways, including proper persuasion and pressure, to achieve this goal. Absolute rejection or conditional rejection, both of which have been overtaken by events, is totally unacceptable. No one says that a certain policy, not a sublime mental or moral principle, can remain sacred forever. The changes brought about by events, as time goes on, will inevitably make it outdated. They might also make it a ludicrous and an unjustifiable impediment some have imposed upon themselves—an impediment that will hamper their movement and harm their interests.

Surprised at Israeli Response

NC1911085388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper expresses surprise at the Israeli response to the Palestinian declaration which recognizes Israel by accepting UN Security Council Resolution No 242. Israel has announced that the Palestinian statement is mere double talk designed to conceal the PLO's continued use of violence, terrorism, and extremism.

In its editorial today, the paper asserts that the Israeli policy demonstrated so far has been nothing less than terrorism. It adds that what is happening in the West Bank and Gaza cannot be termed merely necessary security for combating riots. The paper cites international testimony noting numerous cases of torture, killing, burning, demolition, ill-treatment, displacement, and detention that are carried out despite the entire international community's denunciations.

The paper says that the Israeli Foreign Ministry's statement, issued after the proclamation of the Paletinian state, was feeble compared with Shamir's policy; he had asserted that the PNC's resolutions do not constitute a real recognition of Israel or a satisfactory renunciation of terrorism.

The paper wonders what they want if all this is not sufficient to embark on a new peace process. It also wonders whether they want to perpetuate only their "right to terrorism" against the Palestinians no matter how much the latter affirm their recognition of Israel and request good neighborliness with it and other parties and renounce terrorism in the clearest terms.

In conclusion, the paper declares that no one would have expected that they would utter such political absurdities at a time when their idiotic acts are displayed before the whole world. It appears as if the ball which the Palestinians threw into their court has hit them in the head, the paper says. [passage omitted]

Dismayed Over U.S. Response

NC2011071988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM expresses dismay over the tendency of both Tel Aviv and Washington to belittle the significance of the PNC resolutions by saying that the declaration of the state is unacceptable, that the denunciation of terrorism is insufficient, that the acceptance of Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 is too vague, and that the recognition of Israel is too unclear.

In its edition to appear tomorrow, the paper says that Israel and the United States have criticized the PNC resolutions as if they have not read them, or read them and rejected them in an offhand manner.

The paper declares that it is astonishing that the resolutions are seen as falling short of giving clear recognition to Israel. Such recognition, the paper writes, was given more than once. The first such example is the proclamation of the state on the basis of the 1947 partition resolution, which is an acknowledgement of the existence of the Jewish state. The second is the acceptance of two UN resolutions that both include a recognition of Israel's existence. A third example of such recognition is the proclamation's definition of the state as one that is willing to live in peace with all the countries in the region and with other countries in the world.

The paper says it is a blatant [word indistinct] that most of the PNC resolutions were made in response to uncompromising and one-sided demands which the United States has pressed for years, and yet it is Washington itself that gave such a disappointed answer. The paper says that, taken together, the U.S. position is that the Palestinian resolutions look encouraging but are insufficient to change the situation.

This, the paper writes, means assigning the peaceful solutions and the peace efforts to an unknown future and allowing Israel greater opportunities to clamp down on the uprising and continue to dispossess a nation which for its pains have dared to rejoice at the declaration of the Palestinian state. This also, AL-AHRAM says, opens the door for the new U.S. Administration to hold on to the same position in continuation of the Republican Party's policies, or even to make more difficult demands [on the Palestinians].

The paper concludes by calling on the United States not to turn down gestures that were made in answer to its own demands.

Libya

PNC Recognition of Israel Condemned

LD1811192588 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1815 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nov 18 (TANJUG)—Libya today officially condemned the implicit recognition of the Israeli state at the recent session of the Palestinian National Council and termed the protagonists of the act "traitors and defeatists".

The official organ of the revolutionary committees of Libya AL-JAMAHIRIYAH devotes half of the issue to the adoption of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 in Algiers, which accepts the right of the Jewish state to exist. The architects of the "high-treason" will pay a high price and encounter the fate of the late Egyptian President al-Sadat, the editorial office commentary warns.

Libya has recognized the new Palestinian state proclaimed in Algiers. It, however, maintains that the proclamation represents only one step closer to the liquidation of Israel, which, according to Libya, can be carried out only through an armed struggle.

The commentary sets out that Libya remains true to its stand—that Arabs and Israel cannot co-exist and that there is no room for the two opposites in the region. It says that the current Arab generation now has to continue without hesitation the struggle until the Israeli state is destroyed.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH's commentary, which does not directly mention names, is generally interpreted here as above all an outward attack on PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat after a short period of improved relations between leader of the Libyan revolution Al-Qadhdhafi and 'Arafat. This most probably means that a new chapter of conflicts and misunderstandings has been opened.

Al-Qadhdhafi disowned 'Arafat's concept of accepting Resolution 242 in a statement to the official Libyan agency JANA. He said that the recognition of the "Zionist being" at the Palestinian National Council session—explicitly or implicity—has no significance for the develoments of the Israeli-Arab confrontation.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that Israeli long-range missiles (4,000-kilometer range) can carry atomic and chemical heads to all parts of the Arab world. Thus, not only the fate of Palestine, but also of the whole Arab world is endangered. That is why the Libyan leader urges a "new generation of anger" to already now engage itself on the only possible way to survive—the destruction of the Israeli state.

Palestine Support Meeting Begins in Tripoli

LD1911214488 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] The proceedings of the joint pan-Arab conference of Arab committees for the support of the huge popular revolution, led by the generation of anger through its people's committees in occupied Palestine, started in Tripoli this evening.

The proceedings of the meeting's opening session were attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Congress, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Mass Mobilization and Revolutionary Guidance, and the heads and members of the Arab League political missions accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Meeting Issues Communique

LD2111100888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0725 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Nov (JANA)—The joint pan-Arab gathering of Arab committees for support of the fierce popular revolution led by the angry generation through its popular committees in occupied Palestine concluded in Tripoli yesterday evening.

The participants in this meeting exchanged information and views about efforts to support the popular revolution for the liberation of Palestine in every Arab arena and at various levels, and also about the need to develop pan-Arab efforts to support the popular revolution through the media and by political and financial means and the drafting of a working program for this. They also exchanged views about ways of supplying support to the heroes of the stones revolution.

At the end of the meeting a final communique was issued in which the need is stressed for the Arab masses and their popular, political, trade unionist, and cultural organization to form committees for supporting the popular revolution, which is led by the angry generation through its popular committees in occupied Palestine, in the various Arab towns and villages so that every Arab can shoulder his responsibilities.

The final communique points out that the popular revolution in occupied Palestine is aimed at fulfilling the demands of the Palestinian Arab people for self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on Palestinian Arab soil.

The participants in the meeting saluted the angry generation, who lead the fierce popular revolution through their popular committees in occupied Palestine against the barabarous Zionists.

The participants in the pan-Arab gathering of the Arab committees for supporting the popular revolution in occupied Palestine agreed on a working program of support for the angry generation in occupied Palestine. They decided to form a pan-Arab committee for supporting the popular revolution, and the Arab committees participating in this gathering will be the founders of this committee. They will contact the Arab countries which were unable to attend the meetings and invite them to join this committee.

In addition, they will consolidate this committee with intellectual, political, and technical personalities; coordinate with the popular and pan-Arab organizations in this respect; and call for the formation of more support committees in the Arab countries.

The working program also includes an agreement on many practical measures and steps in every Arab country and at the pan-Arab and international levels.

Morocco

PLO's 'Arafat, Delegation Arrive in Morocco

LD1811122588 Rabat MAP in French 0900 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Fes, 18 Nov (MAP)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee arrived in Fes early Friday morning on a visit to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Mr 'Arafat, for whom this is the first visit to an Arab country since the proclamation in Algiers of the independent Palestinian state, is accompanied by a delegation including Abu Mazin, member of the Fatah Central Committee and of the PLO Executive Comittee, Hani al-Hasan, political adviser and member of the Fatah Central Committee; and Abu Tariq Sulayman Shurfa, adviser to the General Command for Arab Affairs.

On his arrival, Yasir 'Arafat expressed his joy at being in Morocco to meet King Hassan II, who, he said, "gave me the honor of receiving me prior to the meeting of the Palestine Council."

Now that the Palestine National Council [words indistinct] "I have returned to inform the sovereign of the results of the PNC's work, the political decisions taken, and the progress of the 'intifada' of the Palestinian people." [passage omitted]

Sudan

SPLA, DUP End Talks, Sign Agreement

EA1811193188 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The 5-day meeting between the SPLM/SPLA and the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] delegations ended in the Ethiopian capital yesterday. The meeting ended with an agreement signed by the leaders of the two sides, aimed at ending the war in the country.

The two sides agreed to a holding of a National Constitutional Conference on 31 December this year, provided that the prerequisite mentioned in the agreement would have been implemented to the satisfaction of the parties concerned. They also agreed that the Islamic Shariah laws be frozen in the interest of the peace and holding of the National Constitutional Conference.

The two sides agreed that in the period preceding the convening of the national constitutional conference, all provisions involving the Huduwd [Islamic legal punishment] and the related articles that are contained in the September 1983 laws be frozen, and that there shall be no legislation on any laws that contain such articles until the National Constitutional Conference is held and final agreement is reached on the alternative laws.

The agreement was signed on the SPLM/SPLA side by the chairman and commander in chief SPLM/SPLA, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, and on the DUP side it was signed by Sayyid Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani, the leader of the DUP.

Addressing the signing ceremony, the SPLM/SPLA leader, comrade John Garang de Mabior, underlined the movement's stand for oneness of the Sudanese people and for great and new Sudan of peace, development, and equality for all, irrespective of race, religion, or sex. He expressed hope that the agreement signed was a starter toward the process of peace, and that the Sudanese political forces will resolve their fundamental national problems to the satisfaction of all the Sudanese people so that never again shall we oscillate between war and peace, so that we have a united strong Sudan that will play its proper role both in the Arab and African worlds and toward human civlization.

On his part, the DUP leader, Sayyid Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani, said that it is time the guns cease, and called for war to vanish. He called for wisdom to prevail and throw the doors of peace wide open. He called on the people to open a new chapter and to walk few departures toward future and to join hands for the sake of this great nation. [sentence as heard]

The talks between the SPLM/SPLA and the DUP, since they started in August this year, were characterized by an atmosphere and spirit of understanding, cordiality, respect, and brotherliness. [passage omitted]

Garang, Al-Mirghani Issue Joint Communique

EA1811201088 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Joint press communique issued by John Garang de Mabior, SPLM/SPLA chairman and commander in chief, and Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, on 17 November]

[Text] 1. In a constructive and brotherly atmosphere, the initiatives and contacts commenced on 18 August 1988 between the DUP and the SPLM/SPLA were crowned by a meeting from 13 to 16 November 1988 between a delegation from the DUP, led by Sayyid Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani, accompanied by a delegation of SPLM/SPLA, led by Dr John Garang de Mabior, leader of the SPLM and commander in chief of SPLA, and comprising high-ranking members of the supreme political and military leadership.

2. The meeting of the two sides, which was characterized by a spirit of seriousness, brotherliness, objectivity, and frank dialogue, addressed all problems of national interest and reviewed all the practical measures that would pave the way for creating the atmosphere necessary for enhancing the peace process and achieving the aspirations of the Sudanese people for stability and lasting peace.

3. The views of the two delegations were identical regarding the issues addressed during their meetings, and were eventually reflected in an agreement signed by the two leaders. That agreement underlines all the necessary measures leading to the convening of the National Constitutional Conference on 31 December 1988.

4. The two sides call upon all the Sudanese political forces to immediately rally around this genuine national endeavor and whose contents shall be made public and available to those forces with a view to realizing peace and stability that are prerequisites for development and prosperity.

5. The two parties call upon the Sudanese nation and the international community to extend emergency relief aid to help save the lives of millions of people threatened with famine and disease in the Sudan.

6. The two sides extend their grateful thanks to His Excellency Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, president of the PDRE [People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia], and to the government and people of Ethiopia for their warm reception and generous hospitality and for all the efforts deployed to create an atmosphere conducive to constructive dialogue and the successful outcome of the deliberations.

Issued in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Wednesday, 16 November 1988.

Garang Explains Accord Provisions, Conditions

LD1811141188 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1030 GMT 18 Nov 88

[By Radomir Sekulovic]

[Text] Addis Ababa, November 18 (TANJUG)—Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebel leader John Garang has signed a peace agreement on the Sudanese south, but at the same time warned the Khartoum government that Sudan will not be an Islamic state as long as the SPLA lives.

The leader of the Christian-animist rebellion in southern Sudan, atheist Garang has let it be known that he is in no way bound by the agreement, signed by himself and Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) leader Muhammad al-Mirghani, unless the Khartoum government accepts his political vision of Sudan.

Garang explained his vision to reporters, saying that the SPLA is for a unique and strong Sudan and for separating religion from the state. He said his guerrillas were not fighting for the breaking off of southern Sudan because they feel they belong to the large, multi-national Sudanese community.

At the ceremony of the signing of the agreement in an Addis Ababa hotel, Al-Mirghani, the coalition partner in Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government, loudly commented that he was signing the agreement in the name of the almighty and merciful Allah. Garang, smiling openly, retorted that he was signing the agreement in the name of the SPLA liberation movement and in the name of the Sudanese people who yearn for freedom.

"There will be a truce in southern Sudan only if the Khartoum government organizes a national constitutional conference before the year's end and lifts the state of emergency in the country. The deadline is December 31. There will be no peace unless the SPLA is satisfied with the results of the constitutional conference," added Garang, whose forces have virtually complete control over southern Sudan.

The SPLA has signed an agreement which places the Khartoum government in a defensive position, since an end to the rebellion is preconditioned by the acceptance of Garang's political program.

"Sudan is a multi-national, multi-racial and multi-religious community. If someone wants to organize the state along the principles of one religion (Islam), one ethnic group and race (Arab), the question is raised what happens to the other several million people, are they in their own state too," Garang pointed out at the press conference.

Garang and his rebels, who number about 40,000, are mostly members of the Dinka tribe which belongs to the pure negroids of southern Sudan.

Asked whether the Khartoum government would accept the constitution of Sudan as a secular state after a centuries-long domination of the Arab-Moslem north, Al-Mirghani gave an indirect confirmation. "Most Sudanese," he said, "except for one party - the radical Islamic National Front, are in favour of the holding of a constitutional conference."

He also said that Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had telephoned him from Khartoum prior to the signing of the agreement and given him his full support.

SPLM To Release 3 Army Officers

EA1811121588 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Nov (SUNA)—The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement has decided to release three Sudanese Army officers as a goodwill gesture to push forward the peace initiative signed in Addis Ababa Wednesday (16 Nov). The Democratic Unionist Party DUP Patron Muhammad 'Uthman Mirghani who arrived from Addis Ababa yesterday said procedures to release the three had been taken yesterday morning.

SPLA 'Press Release' on Agreement

EA1911212788 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] We now present the SPLM-SPLA press release on the occasion of the signing of the 16 November agreement between the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLM-SPLA:

Date: 16 November 1988:

I. Introduction

In a quest for peace and peaceful resolution to Sudan's fundamental problems, delegations from the SPLM-SPLA and the DUP have held a series of meetings in Addis Ababa, Ethiopa, since August 1988 to explore ways of reaching understanding on the resolution of these problems. The preliminary meeting culminated in an historic meeting between Dr John Garang de Mabior, the leader of SPLM-SPLA, and Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, the leader of the DUP, that lasted for 4 days and culminated in the signing today of this historic agreement.

The leadership of the movement takes this opportunity to congratulate and thank all those who contributed to this victory and to the Sudanese political forces that supported this peace initiative. The talks since they started in August were characterized by an atmosphere and a spirit of understanding, cordiality, respect, and brotherliness, and the movement is optimistic that the healthy understanding and working relationship between the SPLM-SPLA and the DUP will continue and grow so that the two parties provide a correct basis to galvanize the other political forces to bring about peace.

II. Significance of the DUP-SPLM-SPLA Agreement

The Agreement is Significant and Historic for Several Reasons:

A. This was the first substantive meeting between the two parties and leaders and a positive agreement was reached. It is to be noted that the DUP was not a party to the Koka Dam agreement and it is hoped that the two peace processes will converge.

B. What is new in this agreement is that the SPLM-SPLA has not called for the scrapping of the Shariah laws, but for their freezing and non-passage of such laws until the National Constitutional Conference is held. The SPLM-SPLA and DUP agreed that in the period preceding the convening of the National Constitutional Conference, all provisions involving the hudud [legal islamic punishments] and related articles that are contained in the September 1983 laws be frozen and that there shall be no legislation on any laws that contain such articles until the National Constitutional Conference is held and final agreement is reached on the alternative laws.

It is to be noted and stressed that the SPLM-SPLA adopted this mild position in the interests of peace and holding of the National Constitutional Conference. However, SPLM-SPLA position remains firm, unequivocal, and uncompromising against a theocratic state and for a secular constitution. However, since the other side, DUP, accepts to freeze this laws and pledges not to legislate any laws before the National Constitutional Conference, then to facilitate the holding of the National Constitutional Conference, the movement is willing to tolerate the freeze and wait for the scrapping of the laws at the National Constitutional Conference.

C. The agreement between the SPLM-SPLA and the DUP and the mild position adopted by the SPLM-SPLA must therefore be viewed as a healthy sign and evidence of seriousness of the SPLM-SPLA in search for a just peace.

III. The Next Steps: What follows?

A. The SPLM-SPLA and the DUP have broken the ice. What happens after that depends on the next steps to be taken by the government of the day in Khartoum. The ball is now in the Sadiq-Turabi court. The crucial factor is whether the government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will take credible steps to create the conducive atmosphere for holding the national constitutional conference by implementing the other prerequisites as contained in the agreement, or whether they will attempt to obstruct the peace process by attempting to explain away and gloss over these prerequisites.

B. In effect, the government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will need to change gear from the high gear of intransigence and war hysteria to the low gear of tolerance and peace. It is to be noted here that recently, on 19 October 1988, Khartoum deputy prime minister and leader of the National Islamic Front scoffed at the DUP-SPLM-SPLA peace talks and urged the government to concentrate instead on a common strategy to deal with the rebellion. He went on, and I quote:

Continued meetings between political parties with the SPLA would create uncertainty amongst the public and affect the morale of government troops. This was followed a few days later by a resolution of Sadiq's council of ministers banning any contact with the SPLM-SPLA and declaring a general mobilization to recapture all territories now under the control of the movement.

C. Clearly the government will need to wind down its warmongering attitude for this peace initiative to bear fruit. The movement will closely watch the next moves of the government. The ball is on the side of the government.

IV. The Question of Relief and Rehabilitation

A. Since 1985, SPLM-SPLA has been constantly appealing to the international communities and all people of goodwill to come to the rescue of the starving Sudanese people. The chairman SPLM-SPLA personally made appeals in 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988. Most of these appeals went unheeded, especially with respect to the supply of relief items to SPLM-SPLA administered areas.

At one point the WFP [World Food Program] responded in the ill-fated rainbow release operation to supply food and other relief items to SPLM-SPLA-controlled areas as well as government held towns. The prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, obstructed it by declaring the WFP official persona non grata on the grounds that supplying food to the hungry in the SPLM-SPLA controlled towns and areas amounted to recongnition of SPLM-SPLA.

B. But the SPLA controls and administers 90 percent of Southern Sudan and no meaningful relief program can ignore SPLA controlled areas. On this issue, the government has been and remains flexible. We have given permission time and again to the ICRC [international Committee of the Red Cross] since 1985 until today to conduct nutritional surveys both in the SPLM-SPLA-controlled areas and movement-held towns in the south although no meaningful relief program has to date been mounted by ICRC.

C. We take this opportunity to once more state and reiterate the position of the movement on relief. The needy in both SPLA and government held areas need and deserve help and the movement is ready to discuss party arrangements with any relief organization. In this context, we have time and again called on benevolent governmental and nongovernmental humanitarian organizations to contact the relevant authorities of the movement on relief, the secretary general, Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, SRRA, based in Nairobi, Kenya, to work out modalities and practicalities of supply of relief items to the needy in the Sudan.

We take this opportunity to appeal again to all goverment organizations and people of goodwill all over the world to come to the aid of all displaced Sudanese inside and outside the country, especially after the drought and the devastating floods and ongoing war to supply food, shelter, and medicines.

SPLA's John Garang Gives News Conference

EA1911214088 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1325 GMT 18 Nov 88

["Press conference" by John Garang de Mabior, SPLA commander in chief and SPLM/SPLA Political-Military High Command chairman, and Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, patron; date and place of news conference not given—recorded]

[Text] [First unidentified correspondent] (?My friend), Dr Garang, (?I am) [name indistinct] from REUTER. I would like to know if this agreement [Sudanese peace initiative signed by the SPLA and DUP] means that cease-fire will take effect immediately?

[Garang] Well, brother Sagai, the agreement doesn't say that. The agreement says that the cease-fire is one of the four prerequisites, that is part and parcel of those prerequisites. Essentially, the cease-fire is what one may call a residual...the residual factor. That is you have a situation where there was no fire, then you have a situation when there was fire, and in order for fire to stop, which is what you mean by cease-fire I presume, then the fact is that [which] led to the fire in the first place will have to be resolved, or to be seen to be effectively in the process of resolution.

So we are committed to a cease-fire, as the agreement just said. What happens next depends on the next step that the government in Khartoum takes and that we would reciprocate. So, your question can be answered both in the affirmative and in the negative in the sense that we have broken the ice with Mawlana [our lord] Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani. After breaking the ice, whether there is or there is no cease-fire, depends on what the others do after they have seen the ice broken.

[Unidentified moderator] Next question, yes please.

[Second unidentified correspondent] (?Mr John) [words indistinct] this news. My question is: What is your expectation to the future of Sudan within the next coming 2 years, and when do you expect the elections in the southern Sudan to begin?

[Garang] Could you ask the question again please?

[Second unidentified correspondent] What is your expectation to the future of Sudan within the next coming 2 years, and when do you expect the elections in the southern Sudan to begin?

[Garang] I asked you to repeat it because it is an important question that deals with expectations, and anything that deals with expectations is very loaded. Our vision—the vision of the movement—with respect to the Sudan is that of a new Sudan. What do we mean by that? We have a Sudan like other countries that were formed as lumping together of various nationalities, as the United States, for example is composed of the English, Italians, Germans, and so on. In the process, historical movements [and] peoples find themselves in one geographical locality and a nation. A state or a nation mutates.

Our vision of a new Sudan is a Sudan in which the various nationalities identify with this (?view), a (?view) that is called the Sudan in which there is tolerance. The various religious groups identify with this new Sudan, in which the disastrous economy which we have—we have a national debt of between 10 billion and 30 billion, nobody really knows, U.S. dollars in debts—we have to cater to the basic needs of the Sudanese people through development after peace is achieved. So, my expectations in the next 2 years, whereas they are optimistic, positive, really depends on the homework that we do in resolving these fundamental problems.

If we are serious in solving these problems, then very rapidly we can have a peaceful Sudan that will take its rightful place among the nations of the region and of the world. So expectations are both again positive. I must be optimistic; a guerrilla must be optimistic. So my expectations for the next 2 years is that of optimism, and we have just signed a peace agreement that will unravel the differences we have and lead towards peace.

Elections in the south—in the Sudan as a whole—the SPLM is a national movement and I can stand in Haj Yusuf [a Khartoum town] or in Port Sudan. So I would want to say that after peace is achieved, then logically we will have elections in the whole country because this is a democratic process. There is no way now [words indistinct] structure of the government that there is in Khartoum is that the Ummah has 100 and so seats, 101, or the DUP has 60 or 63 seats, National Islamic Front 51. Now you go down the roster and you find that the SPLA has zero seats.

So, somehow, if there is peace, a mechanism will have to be devised whereby the SPLM becomes part and parcel of the Sudanese political process. The government in Khartoum—its legitimacy is through elections—and the legitimacy of any government will have to be through the people. So I would expect elections after peace.

[Third unidentified correspondent] The two parties called upon the Sudanese nation and the international community to extend emergency relief aid to help save the lives of millions of people threatened with famine and disease in the Sudan. Now, does that mean that the international airlift operation and distribution will immediately be carried out without any hindrance, whatsoever in southern Sudan?

[Garang] There has been no hindrance before. There is talk about hindrance, but I want to assure you that before this there has never been any hindrance. The position of the movement since 1985 has been very clear: that needy people—people who are in need...were in need of food, people who are in need of shelter, people who are in need of medicines and have been displaced, their lives have been disrupted by war, by natural disasters, such as drought, floods and any other natural disaster, and the international community benevolent organizations who are in a position to offer assistance, we have always been ready to facilitate the movement of such relief items to whoever is in need, whether these people are in territories controlled by the Khartoum government or whether these people are in territories controlled the SPLM-/SPLA in the south. [sentence as heard]

So, the situation remains as before: that we are ready to discuss ways and means of making relief reach the victims of various disasters. The problem has been in that sometimes the government and international organizations, they say that SPLM is to facilitate relief to go to where it is needed, which is perfectly in keeping, and then they turn around—the government in Khartoum turns around—and say that they are not going to talk with us. Well, if you are not going to talk with the SPLM, and you are asking the SPLM to let the food go, who are you going to talk with? How are you going to make the arrangements?

So, categorically I would want to reiterate that the movement is ready, has always been ready, is willing to go into working arrangements with any international relief organization so that food goes to both the Sudanese-held territories and to the SPLM-held territories. Does that answer your question, or do you have a follow-up, because I see there some little things in the back of your mind.

[Third unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct] striking the back of my head. Will the international relief airlift and distribution... Will it now proceed without any threat from any quarter?

[Garang] We have given full mandate to an organization that we call the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, the SRRA. Its headquarters is in Nairobi. Its instructions are that it is free to enter into agreements with any international organization. So any international airlift now or in the future, the relevant authority of the movement with which this is to be discussed is the SRRA. They are fully mandated and they have instructions to allow relief to come into working arrangements, because sometimes the government can smuggle in things which may reinforce its war situation.

Of course, you and I and the international community that is giving the assistance will not want to help the war machine of Khartoum. That would be siding with them. So, when the organization, the SRRA, is satisfied that this is pure relief, there is no reason why this should be refused. I hope you are satisfied now? Very good.

[Unidentified moderator] Well, I don't like to give the chances for only those cases that I know, so I'd like this time a question from Sudan. Possibly here on the right. Yes, please.

[Correspondent Arop Madut] Arop Madut, HERITAGE newspaper, Khartoum. My question is to Mawlana Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani. The question is: DUP was not represented in the Koka Dam Declaration, signed by the alliance in 1986. They did not also accept the terms which were arrived at in that conference. With this agreement, does it mean that DUP will now or has joined the alliance in accepting the terms of the Koka declaration?

[Mirghani—in Arabic throughout followed by English translation; translated from the Arabic] I think we are now at an advanced stage in the peace talks in that we have transcended Koka Dam. Whatever the DUP's view was then at Koka Dam, we now have a definite date for the National Constitutional Conference, which is 31 December, 1988. All our efforts should be directed toward bringing this conference about and the implementation of what has been agreed on. There will be no going back to the past.

[Madut] It seems that there was no mention in the agreement of Koka Dam. Was it by oversight or by design?

[Mirghani] As a matter of fact [words indistinct] from Khartoum, because since the brothers signed the basic agreement while we have contacting all the political organizations and parties over a period of 3 weeks, no one mentioned Koka Dam. Sudan has transcended Koka Dam.

[Fourth unidentified correspondent in Arabic] What are your expectations from the political forces in Sudan with regard to this agreement?

[Mirghani] The answer is: We came to this meeting only after ascertaining that the majority of the Sudanese people support this effort and want peace. After 17 October, when the agreement in principle was signed, we enaged in a dialogue with all the political organizations and we found support from all the political parties excerpt for one—support from the trade unions, the farmers unions, the workers unions, the university lecturers, and all the other groups and organizations in Sudan.

Therefore, when we return to Khartoum, this matter will not be new to them, because they know all about it, they know its dimensions. Therefore, we hope to advance toward implementing the terms of the agreement to arrive at the aim, which is convening a national constitutional conference on the agreed date.

Further on News Conference

EA2011210188 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 19 Nov 88

["Second part of the press conference" by John Garang de Mabior, leader of the SPLM/SPLA, and Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, date and place of press conference not given—recorded]

[Text] [Sagai] I am Sagai from REUTERS again and would be very happy to follow through [words indistinct]. Are you [words indistinct] to know whether it is a matter of semantics that, because (?of) an agreement we said that the Shariah laws should be abolished: Now you are saying that they will be frozen. I would like to [words indistinct].

[Garang] Well, in the Koka Dam Agreement—You are right—we called for the scrapping of shari'a laws, the September laws. In this agreement we are saying that the shari'a laws be frozen [words indistinct] the September laws [words indistinct] be frozen and that no similar laws that have religious content be passed in the meantime until people go to the national constitutional conference and agree or disagree on these laws. So you could interpret it the way you like, but (?here) the movement has not relaxed or abandoned its position.

We made our position very clear that we are not in favor. We are committed to a nonreligious or nontheocratic state. We are for a secular state. We made this clear in the text of the agreement, but since we are eager to conclude a just peace in the interests of the Sudanese people [words indistinct], we are willing to tolerate a freeze and wait for the scrapping at the national constitutional conference. (?They) said this was a good [words indistinct] will be passed before the national constitutional conference. So in effect we don't have shari'a. This is the concrete meaning of peace.

Now, at the national constitutional conference, should other parties insist that the Sudan must be an Islamic state, then that logically implies the existence of a non-Islamic state within the same Sudan, because in a multi- religious community or society, if any of the religions insists that it must be the state religion, then it actually means the existence of a non-Islamic state because the others also must have a state. And if they are out of the religious state, then actually that is a separatist position. The position of a religious state within a multi-religion community is a separatist position. We will argue this position during the national constitution conference. We will say our final view.

The other side will have to tell us why we should—wise men muslims and muslims who do not want to live in an Islamic state and [words indistinct]. They will have to convince us how this is to our best interest, all. If they don't convince us, then we will vote for a secular state and there will be peace. Otherwise it would mean opting for continuation of the war.

In one aspect, there are other fundamental problems. As I said before, there is the nationality question. The position of the present government in Khartoum is that the Sudan is an Arab country. Now, we have to analyze that. We will discuss it at the National Constitutional Conference. In a multinationality country [words indistinct], in a multireligious country, if one of the nationalities imposes itself as the state nationality, then where do the other nationalities go? So, we will pose it to the Sudanese people at the National Constitutional Conference that the Sudan is a multiethnic, multinationality country. Let us create a new Sudan in which all the main nationalities exist and contribute amicably. We will make this position clear.

We are not a unique country in that we are multiethnic, multinational. As I said before you have the [word indistinct] of the United States. So, you have people called Afro-Americans, English-Americans, German-Americans and so on, but they are all Americans. That is the new entity that the new [word indistinct] I was talking about before. In our Sudan, our service is to our fellow citizens of Arab origin. Are they Arab Sudanese or are they Sudanese Arabs? [Laughter] Just like the Afro-Americans and English-Americans, we say that they are Arab Sudanese.

They are not Sudanese Arabs and we insist to convince them to this point of view because it is correct. There are also Nuer Sudanese and there are Dinka Sudanese and there are Nubah Sudanese and there are Fur Sudanese and there are Nubian Sudanese. Will make this point very clearly [words indistinct], and this is our vision of the new Sudan, a Sudan which is not uncomfortable in Africa and not uncomfortable in the Arab world, but that actually realizes its potential of contributing both to the Arab world, to the African world and to human civilization.

So, in the United States, for example, you have Arabic. You have English, which is the national—or at least the lingua franca in the United States. In the Sudan we have Arabic and I consider Arabic, and this is what I said in the Koka Dam conference. I have studied Arabic as a Sudanese language, not an Arab language. It is a human language. It is a language that belongs to the human civilization. It would be absurd to say that English is an English language, you know, because it is spoken in Nigeria, it is spoken in the United States, it is spoken everywhere, and so is Spanish and so on.

So, it is this new Sudan in which we see realities as we are seeing them now, without hiding them. Then we will resolve and discuss all issues in the national constitutional conference. Well, if the other sides insist on what is untenable, then there will be no coice but instability, because in a multi nationality country, in a multi religious country, you either—what we are saying is either accepted as a matter of course, a matter of reality, or otherwise it is enforced by force of arms. There are other problems which we shall discuss also: the national economy, the disastrous economy which we inherited from Numayri and which continues. How do we pay our 30 or 20 or 10 billion dollars in debts?

All these things will be resolved at the National (?Constitutional Conference). [Words indistinct] freezing is a mild—is milder than scrapping and we adopted this mild position in the interests of peace so that we have the opportunity to discuss with the rest of our (?countrymen) these fundamental issues. There is nowhere else we can discuss them. If we insist that no, no, no, they must be scrapped before we talk, then we may not be able to talk and peace will be difficult to achieve, but if the other side accepts to freeze and not to legislate, then it would be unreasonable of us to insist on the [word indistinct]—no, no they must be scrapped. This would be an untenable and unreasonable position. If my answers are [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct] [Mirghani, in Arabic] In fact, Dr Col John Garang (?has his own view) and the [word indistinct] party has its view on this matter. The DUP has its own Islamic orientation and has its nationalist positions, in fact, even if it is considering the alternative penal laws in place of the September laws. Out of the DUP's appreciation and concern to bring about peace [word indistinct] through dialogue [word indistinct] between the DUP and the movement up to this point that there should be freezing until the commencement of the National Constitutional Conference. There were views tabled and others remain to be hailed - [word indistinct] cannot be of the National Constitutional Conference. [Laughter] God willing (?its place) will be in the convened conference.

It is possible that back in Sudan there are many people whose views differ from those of the movement and of the party. We are fully agreed that the sons of Sudan must meet (?on an equal footing). The war must end and peace must prevail. We are convinced that Sudan embraces differing views and different nationalities, but all people must live in amity and peace. The majority must also have its status in matters affecting it but without making an impact on the rights of the minorities.

This will lead us to a long debate and a great deal of argument at the National Constitutional Conference, but in the end we believe in the democratic course and the democratic future for Sudan. Through dialogue and democratic practice we shall be able to build a modern Sudan, God willing. Thank you.

Al-Mirghani: War Continues; No Cease-Fire

NC2011193588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Nov (MENA)—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party in Sudan, has emphasized that the popular movement in southern Sudan and the Sudanese Government are still in a state of war and that there is no cease-fire.

In a press statement today, Al-Mirghani added that what is required in the coming phase is the halting of the hostile propaganda between the two sides so as to create suitable circumstances for peace.

Al-Mirghani had met earlier today Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese Council of State, and council members. He presented them with a report on the peace agreement recently signed in Addis Ababa with John Garang, leader of the rebellion in southern Sudan, which is known as the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement. He also gave the council the text of the agreement.

Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani is expected to meet with Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi this evening for the same purpose.

Al-Mirghani noted that he will also hold meetings with the leaders of the other political parties to explain the goals of the agreement so that all the political leaders may be acquainted with the agreement.

Al-Mahdi, Al-Mirghani Discuss Peace Agreement

EA2111113488 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Nov (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], had a lengthy meeting yesterday. They discussed the clauses and nature of the peace agreement and the attitude of the other political parties and oragnizations toward them.

Today's AL-AYYAM says the discussion centered on the clauses of the agreemment on freezing the legal Islamic punishment [hudud] until the convening of the constitutional conference, the date set for the holding of the conference, and the abrogation of Sudan's military agreements with a number of neighboring states. It was agreed at the meeting to continue the discussions of all the clauses of the agreement between the DUP and Garang's movement with a view to reaching agreement on them.

Moreover, Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani has called for a halt to the hostile media campaign (?against) the government and the SPLM so as to create an atmosphere which is conducive to implementing the peace agreement and putting an end to the war which is constraining the entire country. Al-Mirghani said he will have a series of meetings with the leaders of political parties to explain the aims of the agreement and to discuss its clauses in order to make it easy for all to agree on them and so that peace can return throughout the land. It is worth mentioning that the peace agreement was signed by the movement and the DUP in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, last week.

National Unity Radio Reports 400 Rebels Killed
EA2011154088 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Our heroic Armed Forces inflicted a mortal blow on the rebel forces in the Nasir area, who had been persistently shelling the positions and stations of our forces. These government forces yesterday carried out a unique, heroic operation, by penetrating the rebel positions. A continuous engagement lasting several hours took place and ended with the outlaws defeat and the dispersal of their forces in the area.

The battle, which occurred on the outskirts of Nasir, took place on Tuesday morning [15 November], when Nasir Forces Command decided to silence the rebel positions, which continued to shell the town. A group infiltrated the rebel troop positions and surprised them, showering them with different types of weapon-fire. The engagement continued for more than 2 hours, during which time all kinds of weapons available to the rebels were used in an attempt to repulse our forces attack. After 2 hours, the rebels recognized that they were waging a losing battle as large numbers had been killed and others wounded. This forced them to retreat. Their remnants started to flee from the area when our forces chased them.

The rebel losses, counted up to yesterday, amounted to 400 killed, and an unknown number wounded, while our forces reward in breaking the siege of Nasir amounted to 18 guns of different types, 35 AK's, one electric generator, a loudspeaker system, in addition to shells and light weapon ammunition. Our forces suffered 1 dead and 11 wounded.

With this battle the Armed Forces have achieved a crushing victory over the remnants of the rebellion and cleared them completely from Nasir, which they had continued to threaten for several weeks. [passage omitted] REF: ea1811201088 (clandestine) radio of the sudanese people's liberation army in english 181300—garang, al-mirghani issue joint communique

Islamic Front Voices Opposition to Peace Accord
NC2011194488 Cairo MENA in English 1930 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 20 (MENA)—The Sudanese Islamic National Front led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi issued a statement last night in which it rejected the peace accord signed last Thursday by leader of the Democratic Unionist Party Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani with leader of the popular movement Colonel John Garang.

On the other hand, Col Garang denied his objection to the brotherhood charter between Egypt and Sudan. Garang said in an interview given to "AL-KHURTUM" newspaper today he only objects to military not economic accords.

Agreement 'Step Forward,' But Not 'Final'
EA1811204488 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1100 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Hello listeners, and greetings to you all in the name of our revolutionary movement, the SPLM/SPLA.

You should know that peace accord recently signed by the leader of the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] and Comrade John Garang de Mabior in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, to bring lasting peace to our beloved country is in no way going to be like the 1972 Addis Ababa agreement. The DUP and SPLM/SPLA delegations reached an understanding on bringing people to the country and made proposals, but if these are turned down by the Khartoum government, then we say there is still a long way to go before the war will end. This agreement should not excite you, the Sudanese people, as we in the movement know that it is not a final agreement that will bring lasting peace, which all of us are crying out for, but it is a step forward.

The reason we say this agreement is different from the 1972 Addis Ababa agreement is that those Anya Nya I leaders were stupid and misled by the government giving them papers, which they blindly signed without tabling good reasons for their cause. This time, the Khartoum government will be unable by any means to deceive us because we in the movement know that we are fighting to liberate the Sudanese people. Therefore, if our demands go unheeded, the war will not stop until victory is won.

Defense Minister's Plane Hit by Missile
EA1911143588 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Retired General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, defense minister, and Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad Ali, commander in chief, and the commanders of the major branches of the Armed Forces General Command arrived in Khartoum from Waw after a successful visit to Bahr al-Ghazal military zone during which they inspected conditions there.

It is worth noting that the plane carrying the delegation was hit by a SAM-7 missile, which resulted in damage to one of the plane's engines and its control systems. It happened immediately after take-off from Waw Airport on the return to Khartoum on the evening of Thursday 17 November 1988. The plane's pilot and crew members managed to control the plane despite the extremely dangerous situation and landed the plane safely again at Waw airport.

Another plane was sent yesterday morning, Friday, and carried his excellency the defense minister and the commander in chief and the accompanying delegation to Khartoum this morning, Saturday.

Meanwhile, all shops were closed yesterday, Friday, in Waw in protest of the incident. The citizens also staged a protest demonstration in which they condemned it. His excellency the defense minister addressed the citizens, thanked them, and expressed his appreciation for their warm feelings. His excellency said to them that nothing could ever prevent him from carrying out his duties.

Al-Mahdi Denounces Attack

NC2011200188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Nov (MENA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi today denounced the attack against retired Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Majid Khalil, Sudanese defense minister. A SAM-7 missile was fired at the plane he was traveling in when it took off from Waw Airport last Thursday.

A statement was issued today after the prime minister's meeting with retired Lt Gen 'Abd al-Majid Khalil and General Fathi Ahmad, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces. The statement says that this incident confirms the untrustworthiness of those who bear arms against the homeland. It also confirms that the rebellion is not serious in seeking peace and that it is powerless.

Staff Brigadier General Muhammad 'Uthman Malik, the official spokesman of the Sudanese Armed Forces, has stressed that the missile which was fired at the military C-130 planes carrying the Sudanese defense minister, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and commanders of the main branches was fired from an area where there are outlaws and where military operations take place now and then.

In press statements today, Malik said that the rebels in southern Sudan have modern communications equipment in the area of Waw, and that this prompts one to say that the attack against the aircraft was not a matter of chance.

Staff Brig Gen Malik stated that military experts in Waw garrison have affirmed that the plane was hit by a missile of the SAM-7 type. The missile had been modified and was thus able to hit the plane, which was flying at an altitude of 8,000 feet.

Brig Gen Malik, who was on board the aircraft at the time, said that 20 of the 60 passengers on the plane were military personnel. He revealed that the plane's pilot experienced an attempt from the same airport to shoot down a plane he was piloting 3 weeks ago.

Meanwhile, Sudanese military sources have stated that the C-130 plane's first engine was hit and damaged. Shrapnel from the missile also hit the second fuel tank, producing a leak which caused the fire to spread to the plane's wing.

Radio Criticizes Attack

EA1911181488 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Excerpt] God is great, God is great, heroic Sudanese people, defenders and men of the homeland, we have said a thousand times that a traitor never keeps his promise and a rebel can never be trusted. It has occurred time and again so that it has become common place. We have learned from experience that whenever a traitor calls for peace he does so while hiding new treachery and trickery and while preparing an act that would expose him and expose his conspiracy.

This time, when some people thought it would be the end of the war and the beginning of serious work to achieve peace all over the homeland, we say, this time, while the Sudanese people were preparing themselves for the peace process, the trickery (?appeared). Against whom this time? They wanted to shoot down and [word indistinct] the plane of the defense minister, the commander in chief and a number of commanders of the commands services.

They hit the plane with a SAM-7 missile and it caught fire. However, God's will, the prayers of the sons of the homeland, and the capability and efficiency of our heroes the eagles of the air [Air Force personnel] saved the country from the trick of conspiracy and treason.

Once again we tell the traitors [word indistinct] John Garang and his mercenaries that the will of the Sudanese people, derived from the will of God, will be victorious, and the sons of the homeland and the men of the Armed Forces are capable of crushing any cunning and treacherous agent.

Brother citizens in Bahr al-Ghazal, you have seen with your own eyes the double-dealing of the treacherous agent who wanted your area to be the arena for his treason, agentry, and cowardly trickery while oblivious to God's [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Deputy Prime Minister Cables George Bush
LD1811222288 Riyadh Domestic in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, telephoned U.S. President-elect George Bush this evening. His royal highness expressed congratulations to the President-elect and wishes for the friendly American people to continue their progress in all fields.

During his telephone contact, the crown prince expressed hope that the United States will continue to contribute to the security and stability of the Middle East in particular and the international community in general.

Sources Denies Responsibility for Oil Price Drop
LD1911050488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2340 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 18 nov (SPA)—A responsible source has made a statement to SPA in which he said: We are still following with great surprise the fact that some Western information media continue to hold the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia responsible for the deteriorating prices of oil in world markets. They keep concentrating on this accusation despite the official statements and clarifications made by the Kingdom in the last months regarding its position on the market situation.

The source continued: We ask ourselves what is behind this accusation against the Kingdom, and why we did not hear a just word when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continued its repeated sacrifices, one after the other, in order to stick to its commitments and respect OPEC resolutions. This resulted in a gradual reduction of its production from 10 million barrel a day to 8 million, then 6 million, and then 4,353,000 barrels a day—the lowest level in the history of its production.

Why should the Kingdom alone be asked to be a scapegoat, while other states exceed their set quotas in a steady spiral without any monitoring or accounting? This practice has led to an increase in production, a fall in demand, and therefore a collapse in prices. [passage omitted]

The source ended his statement by saying: We insist on recalling these facts in order to stress two main points:

1. We reject the false accusations which some media make against us now and then without looking at reality and without paying justice to the huge sacrifices which the Kingdom has presented in this field.

2. We repeat and affirm what the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has announced in more than one official statement: It is fully ready to commit itself to what the ministerial council—which will convene on 21 November—decides, on the condition that all members of the organization fully and absolutely commit themselves to the decision and that the decision will continue to be in force for 2 or 3 years in order to achieve some required stability for the producer and consumer states alike... We have great hopes of seeing the joint efforts of the OPEC member states and the states outside OPEC move in this direction, to guarantee the interests of all... [ellipses as received]

Commentary on U.S. Stand on Palestinian State
LD1911222688 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Nov 88

[News and comment by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] The United States has described the Palestine National Council (PNC)'s announcement of the recognition of all UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue—including Resolution 242, the acceptance of which the U.S. Administration has made into a precondition for talking with the PLO—as unclear.

This description has stimulated fierce disagreement among U.S. officials. The new U.S. demand—clear Palestinian recognition of the Zionist entity and eschewing what the U.S. spokesman called "terrorism"—constitutes a new condition not stipulated by the U.S. before. Its condition for direct talks with the PLO used to be the PLO's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967.

Although no one expects the U.S. to change its position on the Palestinian cause and to turn 90 degrees all at once against the principle laid down by its ex-secretary of state, Henry Kissinger—which makes U.S. acceptance of a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue contingent on an equal acceptance by Israel—it is expected that the policy of the new U.S. Adminstration will gradually move away from Kissinger's principle. This is not expected to happen because of a desire to dispense with Israel, but in recognition of reality in the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This reality began to crystallize in the last year of the present U.S. Administration, which will pass power onto the new administration next January. The Reagan Administration was unable to deal objectively with this new reality because of the U.S. elections and the need of the Republican candidate—regarded as a continuation of the present administration—for Jewish votes, and the approval of Zionist pressure groups and the media—almost completely under Zionist influence.

The uprising of the Palestinian people, which has entered its second year, has proved the impossibility of U.S. rejection of every solution not accepted by Israel.

The Palestinian people, as represented in its constitutional institutions, has proved that it has as much right to make decisions as the enemy. Thus, the only road for the establishment of peace in the Middle East is that which considers Palestinian rights to the same extent as Israeli evil.

While matters have positively developed to the benefit of the Palestinian people as far as both politics and the struggle are concerned, the results of the Israeli elections gave the so called "religious" fanatical parties a proportion of parliamentary seats that made them the only choice for the formation of an Israeli government under the Likud leadership.

These results dashed hopes of the U.S. Administration that the Israeli voter choose a candidate more likely to pursue the political rather than the terrorist line—which constitutes Likud ideology and that of the religious parties that will form a coalition government—despite the inability of Likud's competitor, the Labor party, to face up to the cause of peace in the Middle East and its consequent responsibilities.

No one imagines that the United States will dispense with Israel. However, it is probable that it will deal with realities in a way that it has not done before. It will try to avoid international pressure and respond to pressures of its allies who considered the PNC resolutions a positive initiative toward peace that deserves support without hesitation at a time when the Arab position has strengthened because of progress achieved in inter-Arab cooperation, following the elimination of many causes of dispute among Arab states. These used to constitute an obstacle toward unified Arab action and lessen the weight of Arab pressure.

There has also been a change in U.S. public opinion during the year of the uprising. This permits the new U.S. Government to choose a position not totally consistent with that of the Israelis without affecting the popularity of the government or stimulating disgust toward its behavior. This is most important for U.S. foreign policy making in that public opinion defines the postures of the governing party, which looks forward to a continuity of the presidency through its candidates.

All indications are that the United States will pursue a new line in treating the Middle East problem—a line that is based on reality, is dependent on the balances of interest in U.S. society, and serves U.S. interests abroad. However, we should not hope for a fundamental change in the U.S. position in favor of Palestinian rights.

Merely getting rid of Kissinger's principle implies the possibility of developing the U.S. position for the better, especially if the U.S. Administration considers Palestinian acceptance of Resolution 242 a meeting point with the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, that is the PLO, which has proved its ability to move in the two directions that lead to national liberation: armed struggle and political dialogue.

United Arab Emirates

British Defense Secretary Arrives With Delegation

JN2111064488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Nov (WAKH)—George Younger, British secretary of state for defense, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi tonight on an official visit to the UAE. He was received upon arrival by Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the UAE Armed Forces; a number of the Armed Forces high-ranking officers; and Michael Tate, British ambassador to the UAE.

Meets With Heir Apparent

JN2111104288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid Al Thani, UAE heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, received at noon today George Younger, British secretary of state for defense, and his accompanying delegation who are visiting the UAE. They discussed bilateral relations and issues of common interest in particular, and the regional situation in general.

The meeting was attended by Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the UAE Armed Forces; Brigadier General Shaykh Muhammad ibn Zayid, commander of the Air Forces and Air Defense; and Michael Tate, British ambassador to the UAE.

Discusses Military Cooperation

JN2111104788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1005 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, UAE defense minister, met with George Younger, British secretary of state for defense, who is visiting the UAE, today. They discussed cooperation between the UAE and the United Kingdom in the military fields. They also reviewed the current situation in the region in the wake of the cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war and the two countries' move toward peace. Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid affirmed to the British secretary the importance of peace in the region on world security and peace.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier General Shaykh Muhammad 'Ubayd al-Maktum, the UAE Defense Ministry under secretary; and Michael Tate, British ambassador to the UAE.

Tanzanian Deputy Prime Minister Arrives 17 Nov

JN1711111588 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Salim Ahmed Salim, Tanzanian deputy prime minister and defense minister, arrived in the country this morning. He was received at Dubayy International Airport by Brigadier General Shaykh Muhammad 'Ubayd al-Maktum, under secretary of defense; Ahmad ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, president of the Civil Aviation Department in Dubayy; a number of shaykhs; and senior police and Armed Forces officers. Also receiving him was 'Abdallah al-Suwaydi, nonresident Tanzanian ambassador to the country.

Meets Defense Minister

JN1711134888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Dubayy, 17 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, UAE defense minister, today met with Salim Ahmed Salim, Tanzanian deputy prime minister and defense minister. Attending the meeting were Brigadier General Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Ubayd al-Maktum, Defense Ministry under secretary; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, head of the Civil Aviation Department; and Abdallah Suwaydi, Tanzania's nonresident ambassador to the UAE.

Sees Al-Shariqah Ruler

JN2011112588 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Al-Shariqah, this morning in his palace received Salim Ahmed Salim, Tanzanian deputy prime minister and defense minister, currently visiting the country. The Tanzanian official coveyed to his highness ruler of Al-Shariqah best wishes and greetings from Tanzanian President 'Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Idris Abdul Wakil, second vice president and president of Zanzibar.

His highness the ruler of Al-Shariqah praised the close relations between Tanzania and the UAE. During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues and questions of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Faysal ibn Khalid ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, head of the Amir's Office in Al-Shariqah and His Excellency 'Abdallah al-Suwaydi, Tanzania's nonresident ambassador to the UAE. [passage omitted]

French Foreign Trade Minister Arrives 16 Nov

JN1611112288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Nov (WAKH)—French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Marie Rausch and his accompanying delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a 2-day visit to the UAE.

In a statement to WAM, the French minister said that this visit is within the framework of promoting the existing relations between France and the UAE, particularly in the trade and financial fields.

Holds Talks, Departs

JN1711195288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1910 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Dubayy, 27 Nov (WAKH)—Jean-Marie Rausch, French foreign trade minister, and his delegation left here today ending a 2-day visit to the UAE.

Earlier in the day, they met with Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid al-Maktum, finance and industry minister, to review UAE-French economic and trade ties. The French minister had met separately with Ahmad Hamid al-Tayir, state minister for finance and industry, to explore avenues of cooperation. The French minister said after the meeting that his country will work toward stepping up economic relations with the countries of the region and the UAE in particular.

AL-ITTIHAD Hails Declaration of Palestinian State

JN1811094188 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 16 Nov 88 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, and in the name of the people, Yasir 'Arafat declared the establishment of a Palestinian state. With the help of God and the support of brothers and friends, this state will turn into a Palestinian national action base to attain the long-awaited pan-Arab hopes and aspirations.

The declaration of a Palestinian state came as one of the great accomplishments of the valiant uprising and gives the Palestinian leadership a historic responsibility in the coming stage of Palestinian struggle—a stage which will be tougher than the previous stages. Raising the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem is facing "a long road and many sacrifices" as 'Arafat said in his press conference yesterday.

Throughout 40 years of armed and political struggle, the will of adherence to land, identity, and repatriation held out strongly despite obstacles. The valiant uprising has embodied faith in its struggle to regain the Palestinian people's national rights, despite sacrifices. Moreover, the declaration of the Palestinian state came to honor the uprising, crystallize its pan-Arab principles, and confirm the right to self-determination and restoration of all usurped rights.

The declaration of the Palestinian state from Algiers yesterday was a promising pan-Arab festival and a decisive transitional stage to a new level of national and pan-Arab action of the size of the accomplishments of the blessed uprising. The fate of the great dream, whose first step began to come true, largely hinges on the successful transit of this stage.

Views U.S. Stand on State

JN1911172388 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Nov 88 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] "The ball is now in the U.S. court." This was rightfully said by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat when the PNC issued the "declaration of independence." No doubt, U.S. reaction to the Palestinian stand was not as expected, especially since the Palestinian resolutions came as if they were a response to U.S. demands that Washington has been reiterating for almost 20 years. Consequently, Washington's hesitation to react favorably to this Palestinian response will be against Washington and in favor of the Palestinian stand. Washington will be mistaken if it imagines that the Palestinian stand may offer further concessions or retreat further than this.

No doubt, it will be a rightful and fair demand that Washington admit the genuineness of the Palestinian stand and quickly respond to it, especially since the United States was one of the countries that supported Resolution No 181 issued in 1947.

The United States even employed all its capabilities of pressure, attraction, and temptation to secure the majority needed to issue this resolution. So, how can Washington disavow today this resolution when Washington itself was the effective factor in its issuance?

Furthermore, after the issuance of Resolution No 181, Washington—as a result of the Arab stand opposed to the partition of Palestine and the views of influential elements in the U.S. Administration—was about to reverse itself on the partition resolution and support a UN mandate. At that time, Zionism mobilized all of its forces, and Hayim Weizman held a decisive meeting with Truman, which prompted the United States to adhere to the partition.

These are historical events. No doubt, Washington is aware of them and so are we. We are also aware that Washington's hesitation to respond to the new Palestinian stand will be in no one's interest.

Yemen Arab Republic

Consultative Council Supports Palestinian State

JN2011143488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The Consultative Council resumed its meetings this morning under Brother Judge 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, council speaker and Standing Committee member. [passage omitted]

At the end of the meeting, the council was acquainted with the resolutions of the extraordinary PNC session in Algiers and issued the following statement:

The YAR Consultative Council has reviewed the 15 November results of the recent PNC meeting in fraternal Algeria, headed by the historic decision to establish an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. The council also reviewed the positive reactions and stands on this decision on the national, Arab, Islamic, and international levels.

While taking pride in our country's firm, constant stand in support of the Palestinian people's struggle and while respecting this people's will to regain their legitimate right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, the council appreciates and emphasizes our political leadership's recognition of the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital (?as soon as it was proclaimed).

The council stresses the need for a quick, unified Arab stand on all levels to enable the Palestinian people to establish their independent state on Palestinian territory. It also appeals to all Islamic and friendly states, to their parliaments, and to all liberation forces and international organizations, to support this decision to regain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and provide the best circumstances for stability and peace in the region.

While greatly respecting and admiring the heroic uprising—waged by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories for the past 11 months—the Consultative Council emphasizes absolute support for and full bias toward the Palestinian people to regain their full rights to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil. The council also views with pride the unity of the militant Palestinian stand demonstrated at the recent PNC meeting. This was one of the positive results yielded by the unique uprising of Palestinian children, women, and other citizens in the occupied Arab Palestinian territories.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Islamic Conference 19 Nov
JN2011095288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn at meeting with the members of the Executive Council of the Popular Islamic Conference Organization in Baghdad; Date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Welcome to all of you. We welcome you because, relatively speaking, you come from afar. Baghdad is your Baghdad and Iraq is your Iraq. [passage omitted]

Brothers, I would like to thank you not only for your struggle on the side of your brothers in Iraq but also because we all are dutybound to confront aggression and deviation, each from his own position and in line with his abilities. We are very proud of the efforts, struggle, and jihad you have offered to confront the aggression and to champion justice over inequity.

In our meetings with you, we used to always affirm that the course in which we believe, irrespective of everything, is the course of peace. As my brothers have said before me, the course of peace is God's course and life cannot be sound without peace. In his book, Almighty God refers to the importance of tranquility, security, and peace in the peoples' life. He always links such an atmosphere and circumstances in this direction with the factors of good. These factors may erupt in the conscience of the individual as an offering to serve mankind in addition to enabling the individual to perform his duties toward his God.

I ask God to enable us to live up to the expectations of all good men, wherever they may be, as well as up to your expectations, my brothers. We hope that we can identify ourselves with some of the qualities you have attributed to us, even if this identification is a partial one. We also hope that we will be able to represent any of the qualities you have attributed to us. We also ask God that we may not walk in a prancing manner on this earth but walk quietly, sedately, and with modesty and faith. We also ask God Almighty to guide those who have deviated from the path of peace and good.

Just to remind you about some of the principles that your brothers in this faithful and Muslim country follow, I ask you to read the communiques issued on the major battles that had settled the war in favor of the results we are speaking about. At the beginning of every communique, we thanked God, and we also thanked Him at the end of every communique. In the body of every communique, we also used to call on Iranian officials to return to the sound path, and we used to tell them: Let us triumph over war by moving toward peace. However, the Iranians made not a single sign that they were ready to adopt a responsible stand. We are always inspired by the ethics God had wanted the Arabs to enjoy when He entrusted them to convey a mission, the latest being the Islamic mission. We must always keep in mind and never forget that we have a duty toward our brothers, the people in Iran, to free them from the cocoon Khomeyni and his ilk have placed them in. We also said before our victory that we firmly believe that the Arabs, as always, have a role to play to help the good men in Iran free the minds which have harbored illusions or deviated from the course. We continue to believe that we must carry out such a duty.

Brothers, in addition to what all the Muslims are offering, we can also offer something. We can do this by insiting on the course of peace so that we may provide the Iranian people with the chance to adopt a sound course in life—and a sound course with respect to faith and religion. Most probably, you have acquainted yourselves with what I said 2 days ago—namely, that if the Iranian officials had reached a conviction on the pursuit of the course of peace and had made a decision in this respect, we would have been able within 10 days to complete the documents laying irreversible and comprehensive foundations for peace and rendering us all beyond any possibility of resuming the war. I would like to repeat this in this meeting too. I do not believe that those who believe in God will lose anything by adopting the course of peace. On the contrary, they will gain much, be this in Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, India, or in the land of the Arabs. The peace we want for Iran is an honorable peace. We do not covet Iranian territory. We also do not seek to humiliate anybody. We wish to see the one who deviates depart from the course of deviation not only to help create stability and a prosperous life through peace, but also to win the satisfaction of God Almighty.

Al-Shaqra [not further identified] spoke about justifiable and Islamic demands. On behalf of Iraq, I agree to these demands if this is your wish. I have only one more request. When you hold meetings in Iraq outside the framework of the war, I hope that you do not praise Iraq so that these meetings are interpreted by this or that party as some sort of political propaganda for Iraq. We are confident and know very well that when you speak of Iraq in a positive manner, it is as if you are speaking about yourselves, about the course in which you believe. Therefore, outside the framework of the war, I wish that in your statements you praise the brother Muslims and the Arabs and do not mention Iraq.

I am confident that you praise all those who carry out good deeds. There are many other good men, God willing. This is an appeal I address to the nation. Iraq is your Iraq, and Baghdad is your Baghdad. Baghdad existed before Saddam Husayn was born. Baghdad represented the glories of the Muslims. The Arabs in Iraq were faithful and meticulously performed their duties toward their nation and God. We will carry out all that you will advise us as a duty without saying let us do this but not that.

We only have two topics the brother Awqaf minister and some of your brothers have mentioned. According to formulas you deem appropriate, we promise that there will be complete freedom with respect to the teaching of the various sects with impartiality. The believer will have complete freedom to practice what he believes in. With respect to the message that my brother 'Adnan [not further identified] has with him, I would like to tell him: Convey my greetings to your brothers in Syria, and my greetings to the entire Syrian people, to all those have faith in Syria, and the good men from the various religions and the various denominations.

Those who toy with sectarianism as a pawn in politics—in Iraq, Syria, Iran, or anywhere else—will be harmed rather than served. Despite the cruel tests they experience and the tragedies they may suffer from, the people can find out the truth. Duty dictates that when one toys with sectarianism, you must, God willing, not face him with sectarianism. Confront sectarian extremism with proper national and Islamic behavior.

Brothers, I thank you and wish you success. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on POW Exchange
JN2111094488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0908 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Iraq has reiterated its readiness to embark on a comprehensive exchange of POW's immediately through the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] apart from the political talks. This came in a statement by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry official spokesman. Following is the text of the statement:

According to the agreement between Iraq, Iran, and the ICRC, the exchange of the wounded and sick POW's recorded in the ICRC records was scheduled to begin tomorrow, 22 November. The ICRC informed us that this operation will be delayed for 2 days at the request of the Iranian side.

The spokesman notes that in a statement issued on 17 November, the Iranian foreign minister described the stands of the two sides on the POW's exchange in a completely false manner. He accused Iraq of dealing with the issue of POW exchange as a political tool. This is at a time when world public opinion, the ICRC, and the UN General Secretariat know that it is the Iranian side which so far has been linking the issue of POW exchange to the political negotiations.

The abovementioned statement by the Iranian foreign minister completely reflects the lies, falsehood, and deception of the world and Iranian public opinion followed by the Iranian regime. The fact is that the ICRC, on 4 October 1988, asked Iraq and Iran to embark on an operation for a comprehensive exchange of POW's beginning with the exchange of the wounded and sick, and recording the POW's who are not exchanged, because of the cease of hostilities according to Article 118 of the Geneva Third Convention for 1949 on POW's.

Iraq responded to the ICRC proposal in an official memorandum on 17 October 1988 and agreed to embark on a comprehensive POW exchange. However, Iran rejected the ICRC proposal and affirmed in a memorandum dated 21 October that it will only view the issue of POW exchange within the framework of the ongoing negotiations to implement Resolution 598. It only agreed at last to exchange the wounded and sick POW's.

Iraq reiterates its readiness to embark on a comprehensive exchange of POW's immediately through the ICRC and apart from the political talks. Iraq presented a memorandum to the ICRC chairman on 8 November 1988 to this effect.

Iran's insistence on linking the POW exchange to the political negotiations to implement Resolution No 598—negotiations that have been going on for 3 months—is contrary to the humanitarian provisions of international law, particularly Article 118 of the Geneva Third Convention on the POW's which calls for the exchange of the POW's immediately after the cessation of hostilities and without any delay. This Iranian insistence mirrors the Iranian regime's policy of blackmail.

The international community is called upon to expose the lies and slanders of the Iranian regime so that it will comply with the provisions of the Geneva Third Convention and immediately embark on a comprehensive exchange of the POW's.

Editor Sees 'Duplicity' in Rafsanjani Remarks
JN1911195788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—INA's foreign affairs editor has warned that the statements made by Rafsanjani yesterday fall within the framework of the measures dictated by self-examination and reflect Iran's evil intentions to resume the war.

In his comments on Rafsanjani's statements in which he described Iran's foreign policy in the past as crude, the editor added: When Rafsanjani criticizes the old Iranian policy, this does not mean that he is seeking to atone for guilt or correct a mistake.

In his remarks on the statement by Rafsanjani, who said that "Iran's new policy will serve us if a new war reerupts," the editor said: Thus, duplicity in behavior is manifested, the real evil embedded in the heads is exposed, and the bad intentions harbored in Rafsanjani's mind are revealed even when he admits that mistakes were made. Concluding, INA's foreign affairs editor stressed the need to see that all those concerned understand and monitor this duplicity in the Iranian officials' behavior, as this reflects a behavioral deviation plaguing them.

Rafsanjani made the statements while meeting university students yesterday. In these statements, he said: Iran is now in a position that allows it to correct its previously crude diplomacy so that it can win further support in case another war erupts.

INA Claims Israeli Radio 'Distorted' Speech

JN1811180588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1708 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—The INA Arab affairs commentator today said that Israeli radio has distorted President Saddam Husayn's speech on Lebanon.

The commentator stressed that President Saddam Husayn's address to the participants in the victory and peace festival for Arab teachers and educators yesterday was very clear regarding the Lebanese situation. He said that in his speech, the president stressed Iraq's readiness to hold a dialogue with everyone in Lebanon, whoever they may be, including the group that belongs to the Iranian regime. In this regard, the president said: We are ready to hold a dialogue with them for the sake of Lebanon's unity and to put aside the rifle, whether they are Muslims or Christians, from this or that sect. You know that we do not differentiate in our country. In our country, religion is for God, faith is required, and the homeland is for all.

The president added that the basis of the Iraqis' stand toward Lebanon is that they do not intervene in Lebanon's affairs and that they do not accept others' intervention in Lebanon's affairs, but they call for the evacuation of the Syrian Army from Lebanon.

The INA Arab affairs commentator described the Zionist radio's distortion as a cheap action that will deceive no one, especially since President Saddam Husayn's speech was broadcast and aired in full to the world.

Israeli radio has deliberately and premeditatedly distorted President Saddam Husayn's speech. In a newscast today, the Zionist radio claimed that the Iraqi president said that his country will help any side expel Syria from Lebanon, even if this side were Israel.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Visit 20 Nov

JN2011091688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad at dawn today on a visit of several days to Iraq.

This is the first 'Arafat visit to Iraq after the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state which was recognized by Iraq immediately after its proclamation.

Confers With President Saddam

JN2011185788 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this evening. They reviewed the results of the extraordinary PNC session and expressed satisfaction with the historic resolutions issued by the PNC.

President leader Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's recognition of the Palestinian state and its full support for the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO. The president leader and Yasir 'Arafat also voiced satisfaction with the Arab and international support for the Algiers resolutions. They urged the Nonaligned Movement countries, the ICO member states, and other states to fully recognize the independent Palestinian state. They also urged the countries that have adopted hesitant positions on the Palestine question to deal seriously and positively with the important resolutions issued by the PNC in Algiers.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, PLO Executive Committee member; Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Council; and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, director of the PLO's office in Baghdad.

President leader Saddam Husayn gave a banquet in honor of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation. The banquet was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime ministrer; a number of RCC members; the members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; the head of the presidential office; and the ministers.

Saddam Receives Message From Venezuelan President

JN1611173688 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 16, INA—President Saddam Husayn received this evening a written message from President Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela pertaining to developments in world oil market. The message was delivered by Venezuelan Energy Minister Julio Cesar Gil at a meeting here today.

The meeting was attended by Iraqi Minister of Oil 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim Al-Jalabi and the Venezuelan charge d'affairs in Baghdad.

Likud Offers Peres Vice Prime Minister Post

TA1911200788 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] During the negotiating meeting on Friday, Likud representatives stated clearly that they will not offer the Alignment the foreign affairs or treasury portfolios. Minister Moshe Arens and Knesset Member Dan Meridor represented the Likud and Ministers Moshe Shahal and Hayim Bar-Lev represented the Alignment at the meeting.

The Likud representatives also said that they will insist that the international conference issue not be mentioned in the government's guidelines. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 19 November reports: "The Alignment ministers, who were aware of the Likud's objection to an international conference, requested that this term be omitted from the government's guidelines. They demanded, at the same time, that the guidelines outline a way to achieve a political breakthrough similar to Shim'on Peres' peace plan."]

Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports that no agreement was reached during the meeting on a division of portfolios on a parity basis between the Alignment and the Likud. Each side reported on the meeting to its party leaders. Our correspondent recalls that the Alignment demanded at least two of the three most important portfolios—foreign affairs, defense, and treasury.

Nevertheless, the Likud is offering Shim'on Peres the post of vice prime minister and a portfolio in the broad-based government. The Likud and Alignment representatives will meet again on Sunday if the leaders of the two parties agree on these issues.

Negotiations To Continue

TA2111115288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] In today's meeting, the Likud ministers decided to continue negotiations with the Alignment and with the religious parties. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Likud ministers heard a report from their negotiating team.

The Likud still believes that the Alignment should not be given two of the three important portfolios. The Likud believes that initially a narrow-based government will be set up and that the Alignment will join at a later stage.

On negotiations with the religious parties, the Likud ministers agreed that Agudat Yisra'el should not be given the Construction and Housing Ministry portfolio because it has been promised to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

Labor Activists Support Rabin on Unity Government

TA1811190788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Excerpt] A group of activists in the Labor Party have come out in support of Defense Minister Rabin's position for forming a broadly-based coalition with the Likud. These include two new Knesset members, Eli Dayan and Gedalya Gal, and several Histadrut heads—such as trade union leader Hayim Haberfeld, and Tnuva director General Yitzhaq Landsman—along with leaders of the United Kibbutz Movement.

The group sent telegrams to Rabin expressing their support for him. The defense minister has said Labor should join a coalition with the Likud on condition that there is parity in the 10-man Inner Cabinet, and that Labor must hold two of the three major portfolios outside of the premiership—that is, defense, foreign affairs, and finance. [passage omitted]

Basyuni Repeats Egypt's Stand on PNC Resolutions

TA2011154488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] In a talk with our correspondent Bassam Jabir, Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, repeated the statement published in Cairo a few days ago where Egypt supports all the resolutions adopted by the PNC in Algiers. Basyuni reiterated that this support was stronger than recognition of the establishment of the Palestinian state. Earlier today, an official spokesman in Cairo quoted by MENA stated that Egypt had recognized the Palestinian state.

Egypt: Palestinian State Not 'Formally' Recognized

TA2011181188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Prof Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador in Cairo, this evening told us that in his meeting with 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian foreign minister, it was made clear that Egypt does not formally recognize the Palestinian state as the PLO declared it in Algiers. This comes in contradiction to a statement quoted by an unidentified official source. That source said that Egypt already had recognized the Palestinian state last Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry 'Regrets' Egypt's Recognition

TA2111061488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has expressed regret over Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state declared in Algiers. The ministry will make a complete response when it receives a draft of the Egyptian decision. Israel's Ambassador to Cairo Shim'on Shamir was summoned yesterday to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to hear an explanation of the decision. Shamir gave Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid a message from Shim'on Peres explaining Israel's opposition to the Palestine National Council's decisions.

Basyuni: Egyptian Move 'Good' for Peace Process

TA2111085688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Nov 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last night expressed his "regret" at Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state, but Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni described the move as a "good step for the peace process." [passage omitted]

Basyuni told THE JERUSALEM POST last night that the Egyptian move should be studied "positively" and that it constitutes a "good step for the peace process."

Basyuni said that Egypt continues to "respect our signature" on the Camp David Accords, and that yesterday's recognition should not be interpreted as a violation of the 1978 treaty.

"The PNC decisions," the ambassador said, "are good as a starting point: the PLO recognized UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, Camp David is based on these very same resolutions, and the peace process is based on them as well."

He said that the recognition of the Palestinian state should not be taken as a presumption of the final outcome of peace negotiations, since "everything can be negotiated when we sit down at the table." [passage omitted]

France: No Recognition of Palestinian State

TA1811142688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] France will not recognize a Palestinian state unless it is established after negotiations that will assure Israel's existence within secure and recognized boundaries, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told the Israeli ambassador. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reported that Ambassador Sofer handed the French foreign minister a message from Foreign Minister Peres explaining the Israeli position on the Algiers resolutions.

The EEC foreign ministers are convening in Brussels on Monday, and a statement on the Algiers resolutions is expected. Political circles believe the statement will not include recognition of the Palestinian state.

Movement Members 'Recognize' Palestinian State

TA2011071588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] A group of the Enough to Occupation Movement demonstrated opposite the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem yesterday, and its members declared that they recognize the state proclaimed by the PLO. Kahane's people, who staged a counterdemonstration, called the members of this left-wing movement traitors.

PLO's Khalid al-Hasan Interviewed on Declaration

TA1811123388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Nov 88 pp 4, 15

[Report on interview with Khalid al-Hasan, head of the PNC Foreign Relations Committee, by Walter Ruby in Algiers; date not given]

[Text] Algiers—The head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Palestine National Council (PNC), Khalid al-Hasan, said that the decisions reached at the Algiers conference represent a Palestinian endorsement of a two-state solution.

But Hasan, one of the two leading ideologists of Fatah (the other, of course, is Yasir 'Arafat), acknowledged in an exclusive interview with THE JERUSALEM POST that he himself hopes and believes that Israel and the future Palestinian state will one day merge into a democratic secular state.

During our dinner at the heavily guarded guest house provided for him near the Club des Pins conference centre, Al-Hasan made no attempt to mask his intense antipathy for Israelis and Zionists. He said his family had once been the caretakers of the shrine of Elijah in Haifa, and expressed bitterness that Ashkenazi Jews from abroad should have the right to settle in Israel while his own right to return was denied.

Despite his excoriation of Israel and Zionists as the primary evil in the world, Hasan was very gracious to me, even though I had been brought to his villa unannounced by a Jordanian colleague late in the evening and had made no attempt to disguise my identity. I even said at one point that I considered myself to be a Zionist. His tone softened appreciably when we began our formal interview, although he did not alter his presentation of the PLO political programme in any way.

I asked him why the PNC had reversed earlier indications that it would endorse UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for a peace conference without any qualifications, coming out instead with a much more ambiguous statement that endorsed 242 and 338, but also spoke of "all (other) relevant UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian problem."

He replied that the wording was crafted very carefully. "Don't forget, we have to sell it to our people.

"The statement says, 'The international conference will be held on the basis of 242 and 338—full stop. But inside the conference, we will have to talk about the Palestinian question according to all that which is related to international legality (such as previous UN resolutions)'."

According to Al-Hasan, the PNC political statement amounts to a "letter of intent, not a contract."

He added, "The letter of intent says that we accept two states in one country. We consider that the international conference will be held on the basis of 242 and 338. We condemn terrorism."

But what about George Habash's public denial that 242 and 338 meant the acceptance of Israel or a two-state solution?

Hasan responded, "Habash said, 'I reject mentioning 242 and 338, but I accept everything else. But I will keep my organization within the PLO, and I will support what you will do...' It is very clear in the text of our statement that we accepted 242 and 338 in every way.

"If we hear an official voice from the government of Israel that they recognize the Palestinian people, the PLO as its representative and our right to self-determination, we will sit and negotiate immediately at the United Nations. I think our letter of intent was very clear. What does two states in one country mean?

"Besides," he added, "how will whether or not we recognize Israel really affect Israel's existence? Whether or not we Palestinians guarantee Israel's existence, the question is, who really needs such guarantees in practical terms—the stronger or the weaker?"

"Secondly, recognition is an act of sovereignty. What is the value of recognition from a body that does not yet have sovereignty? The first parliament may say no—and all of our premises can go to hell.

"Also, if we announced our recognition now, I am sure the Israelis would say, 'We don't care about that.' They've said it before. Shamir said it, Begin said it, and Golda Meir even said, 'I am horrified when I go to bed at night to think how many Palestinian children will be born tonight in the camps.' So it should be a mutual recognition as a result of successful negotiations."

Does Al-Hasan believe that the PLO's political statement will be enough to move the U.S. to open discussions with the PLO?

"Yes, if they are sincere. If they are not serious, whatever we say, they will say, 'This is not the exact wording we want.' I think that with the new U.S.-Soviet detente, there is seriousness. But until now, the Americans say no to an independent state and self-determination."

Still, Al-Hasan is pleased with the initial world response to the PNC.

"The press response was good, and so was the European response, including that of Britain; which is as big an enemy as the Americans."

Why had the PLO not set up a provisional government?

"We think the timing is a little early; that it starts immediately after the inauguration of Bush.

"We know the policy of the U.S. is not made by one man, although personality and knowledge makes a difference. For sure, Bush knows much, much more than Reagan; who I am sure until now does not know what is a Palestinian. But Bush knows—he was the CIA director, so he knows. And James Baker definitely knows."

Does the PLO expect Syria to recognize the new state?

"No," he replied, "and we don't even want it. I think Syria has lost all of its cards, and can no longer play a role."

Asked for the key motivation for the Declaration of Independence, Al-Hasan responded, "The people of the intifada [uprising] now have something to defend. Instead of attacking occupation, they are defending independence, and that is a great psychological change. They now have a future to fight for."

When I referred to Israel's relative ease in controlling the celebrations over the declaration, Al-Hasan denied it.

"They made all these threats to control the celebrations, and they failed. You cannot control people, especially if they do not give you the excuse to kill. You love to kill, and now your crime is to disable as many people as possible."

But can the Palestinians really be satisfied with a West Bank and Gaza ministate?

"Yes, because we are looking forward to the day when we will come to an agreement with the Jews by democratic means. It can be on the Swiss example, under which the cultural identity of each people can be helped. Economics will be the main factor, in that Palestine is very poor.

"History never knew the example of a state that will live forever depending on outside support—especially support that goes as high as $21 billion a year (sic). In the coming era of detente, the U.S. won't let Israel have weapons they don't have."

I asked Al-Hasan whether the PLO will soon return to the Habash position if the current PLO position fails to bring quick results.

"No," he replied. "We have one or two years. But I do not believe it will fail. There are great changes coming in the world."

Cabinet Discusses PNC, Economic Issues

Effect of PNC Noted

TA2011165788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today at the Cabinet meeting that most of the Western world supports the right of the Palestinians for self-determination, and that Israel has to face this fact. This is Natan Gutman reporting. Heads of the defense establishment reviewed last week's developments which were a result of the resolutions passed by the PNC in Algiers. It was noted that IDF activity in the territories resulted in the prevention of violence.

It was stated in the Cabinet session that the PNC resolutions present a victory for 'Arafat and a weakening of the radical elements among the Palestinians. It was also mentioned at the meeting that there is a lot of activity conducted by the PLO in Europe in an attempt to persuade more countries to recognize the Palestinian state as it was declared in Algiers. The PLO's resolutions fall on fertile soil in Europe, it was noted. The police minister reported a significant increase in the number of disturbances in Jerusalem during the PNC session.

Communique on PNC Resolutions

TA2011173588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] The cabinet says that the PNC declaration in Algiers is another act of distributing misleading information, making illusions, and attempting to divert world public opinion. A communique issued at the conclusion of the cabinet session states that the PLO has not amended its covenant, changed its policy, or altered its methods of terrorism. The communique further states that those countries that are interested in advancing peace in the region should know that the PLO was, and still is, the major obstacle on the road to peace, and they should therefore refrain from supporting its declarations.

Unemployment Picture 'Gloomy'

TA2111095188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Nov 88 p 1

[Report by Asher Wallfish and Jeff Black]

[Excerpts] Labour Minister Moshe Qatzav painted a gloomy picture of the unemployment situation at the weekly cabinet session yesterday, warning that it was going from bad to worse. Over 4,000 jobs were at risk in the near future, he said, and this did not include the thousands of scheduled dismissals at Koor.

Qatzav said his ministry's employment service had 60,000 job-seekers on the rolls and the number was increasing week by week. He said the figure of 100,000 published by the Central Bureau of Statistics referred to non-employed rather than job seekers, because it included students, housewives, and others who did not register at the employment service, but would work if they felt inclined.

Qatzav said that in the past six months, 40 factories have been closed at a cost of 8,562 jobs. Half of these factory closures came in the textile sector, where 3,765 jobs were lost. The chemical and plastics industry slashed its manpower by 1,868 jobs in the past six months while the steel and electronics industry has let go 3,444 workers. In the near future, this latter sector is expected to shed a further 3,110 jobs.

The unemployment trend showed a rise from 5.6 per cent in the first quarter of 1987 to 5.9 per cent in the second quarter of this year and was nearing 7 per cent today. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 21 November reports that "Bank of Israel Governor Mikha'el Bruno said that the gloomy atmosphere and the talk about a general collapse of the economy are exaggerated. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch says that Bruno was addressing the closing session of an economists conference in Tel Aviv last night."]

Asked about the presence of foreign workers aggravating unemployment of Israelis, Qatzav reported that 1,600 Southern Lebanese work in Israel, and 3,900 other foreigners. His ministry will tighten its control over the import of foreign workers and will also introduce more professional retraining courses within individual factories, he said.

The minister issued a call to the country's Jewish workers to accept whatever work was available noting that the Employment Service had around 6,000 jobs on offer.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 21 November, in a report by the economic staff on page 8, notes that "dozens of East European workers are working in the country illegally, according to recent reports confirmed yesterday by the Employment Service," adding that "at present, nearly 4,000 foreign workers hold work permits here."]

'Team' To Combat Unemployment

TA2011114588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] The defense minister and IDF officers today briefed the cabinet on the events that followed last week's PNC convention in Algiers.

On another matter, the cabinet empowered a team of directors general of government ministries to form a plan to combat the growing unemployment. Our correspondent Arye Salman reports that the decision followed a debate on the deteriorating nationwide condition of employment. The labor and social affairs minister told the cabinet that since the beginning of 1988, the number of employment seekers has increased by 50 percent. He noted that a further exacerbation of the situation is expected in the upcoming months.

Moroccan Minister Comments on 'Chance' for Talks

TA2011185988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Moulay Zine Zahidi, a minister in the Moroccan prime minister's office [title as heard], believes there is a chance that Israeli and Palestinian representatives might start secret and informal talks in the wake of the elections in Israel. He was speaking to Gid'on Kouts, our correspondent in Paris.

Zahidi added that foreign elements could exert light friendly pressure on both sides, but nothing beyond that. The Moroccan minister is in Paris attending a symposium on Moroccan Jews sponsored by the [name indistinct] Institute.

Condition of SLA's Lahd 'Critical But Stable'

TA2011091488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] The condition of General Antoine Lahd, the commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], continues to be critical but stable. Our correspondent Qobi Mandel was told by Rambam Hospital in Haifa that there is no deterioration in his condition and that artificial respiration is continuing in order to make him more comfortable.

'Uprising' Leaders Meet 'Secretly' 20 Nov

TA2111095988 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 21 Nov 88 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" report by Diane Shalem]

[Text] Jerusalem—Political leaders of the Palestinian uprising met secretly in East Jerusalem yesterday and decided to call a conference of all Palestinian public figures in the territories, THE NATION has learned.

The move is an immediate response to the PNC declaration of independence in Algiers last week and appears to express local independence from PLO policies dictated from afar.

Among the 12 at the meeting were Hanna Sinyurah, of East Jerusalem, Sari Nusaybah, of Bi'r Zayt University, and Mustafa al-Natshah, of Hebron.

The aim of the conference, to be held at the National Hotel in East Jerusalem later this week, is to set up a permanent body to implement the PNC's call for Palestinian independence.

Another factor is dissatisfaction among West Bank leaders over PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat apparently ignoring the intifada [uprising] as the moving force of the Palestinian nationalist revolution.

At yesterday's meeting, anger was expressed over Leaflet No 29 of the uprising—signed as usual by local leaders but in fact dictated entirely by 'Arafat from Algiers.

Some of those at the meeting said this diktat was typical of 'Arafat's removal from events in the real world of the territories, and that the focus of the Palestinians should now be on diplomatic efforts and civil protests, rather than on violent actions.

The leaflet calls for the Palestinians of the territories to intensify the struggle against the Israeli occupation, primarily by staging widescale demonstrations.

Territories Groups 'Settling Accounts'

TA2011071088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Report by correspondent in the territories Arye Gus]

[Excerpt] Following the PNC session and the declaration of an independent state, the various organizations in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are now turning their attention to settling accounts. First and foremost, settling accounts between the Unified National Command of the Uprising—which supports the PLO and certainly the Algiers proposals, the proclamation of an independent state, and the establishment of a government-in-exile—and the Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement—which objects to all of this and called for a 3-day strike in the territories during the PNC session in Algiers.

The Hamas claims that the recent PLO moves will ultimately result in recognition of the State of Israel, which would mean the partition of the land, and a partition of the land is an antireligious crime for those who abide by the statement in the Islamic covenant that Palestine is holy for Muslims and Palestinians.

The religious did not settle for words; they resorted to action. They threw stones at shops in several places and tried to spoil the festivities that followed the proclamation. Complaints about anonymous threats over the telephone were also heard on the weekend.

A general strike, jointly maintained by the two organizations, was staged in the territories yesterday in memory of Shaykh 'Izz al-Din al-Qasim, one of the leaders of the Muslim religious fanatics of the 1930's who was killed in a battle with British soldiers in Samaria at the end of 1935. Shaykh al-Qasim, who is considered one of the harbingers of the [anti-Jewish] 1936-1939 riots which the Palestinians call the Arab revolt, is now the national hero of the residents of the territories.

A joint strike was staged yesterday then, at the call of both the Unified National Command of the Uprising and Hamas. Nevertheless, the new leaflet No 29, which was issued yesterday by PLO supporters, already criticizes the criticism leveled by Hamas. There had been a sort of armistice between the religious radicals and the PLO supporters so far. It has not collapsed, but cracks in it are getting wider. [passage omitted]

Further on Curfews, Disturbances in Territories

Blockade on 3 W. Bank Towns

TA1811195088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] There was relative quiet in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip again today, the 2d day in a row. The curfew was lifted from many locations. Only one neighborhood in Rafah is still under curfew. The departure of residents for work in Israel and commercial activity were normal for Friday. Telephones, which were cut on the eve of the Algiers conference, were reconnected.

IDF forces in Judaea and Samaria imposed a blockade in the Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Nabulus areas. The security forces received reports that Ramallah residents planned to demonstrate after Friday prayers in the mosques. In view of this, the IDF presence in all parts of Ramallah, especially around the mosques, was increased. Many more worshippers than usual gathered at Al-Nasir Mosque, the town's main mosque. The preachers called on the worshippers to express their solidarity with the declaration of Palestinian independence, but due to the wide-scale deployment of military forces in the area they dispersed quietly.

3 Injured in E. Jerusalem

TA1911053388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 19 Nov 88

[Text] Stones were thrown last night at a police patrol in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan. The policemen fired tear gas and rubber bullets at the stone throwers. Three residents were injured and received medical treatment.

Casualties, Strike Reported

TA1911142588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Two people were wounded in a clash with IDF forces in the village of Bayt Furik near Nabulus today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF carried out policing and search operations in Bayt Furik and other villages in Judaea and Samaria.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 19 November adds: "About 10 people were wounded today during clashes with IDF forces in Samarian villages."]

There was a general strike in the territories today in response to a call by the Unified National Command of the Uprising and the Islamic Resistance Movement to mark the anniversary of the death of Shaykh Azad al-Din al-Qasim, who is considered one of the fathers of the Palestinian national movement. He was killed in a battle with the British during the 1936-39 riots.

A curfew was imposed today on several refugee camps in the Rafah and Khan Yunus areas in the Gaza Strip. Refugee camps in the Nabulus area are also under curfew.

Curfew Lifted From Gaza Camps

TA2011053588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] This morning the IDF lifted the curfew from all villages and refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. There are no curfews in Judaea and Samaria any longer either. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that during clashes with soldiers at least 11 people were wounded yesterday in the territories.

Firebomb Thrown in Ramallah

TA2011113588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF vehicle in central Ramallah. No one was hurt, and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the security forces closed off the area and launched searches.

A flying PLO flag and a burned Israeli flag were found in Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that the police are investigating.

Anti-Israeli slogans were painted on a cemetery wall in the Galilee village of Sakhnin. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the police erased the slogans and launched an investigation. An inhabitant of the neighboring village of Kaukaba was detained on suspicion of having hoisted a PLO flag on a school roof.

1 Killed Near Tulkarm

TA2011151888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] A local inhabitant was killed and another wounded today in the village of Baqa al-Hatab in the Tulkarm area. Local villagers claim the two were wounded by soldiers. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the casualties were taken to Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus. The IDF is checking the report.

Schools To Reopen in W. Bank

TA2011154788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria has decided to reopen schools in the area at the beginning of December. Our correspondent Arye Gus points out that Civil Administration officials hope students will not continue to riot after the schools reopen. Studies will initially resume in primary schools, and will later resume gradually in junior and senior high schools. University will not reopen for the time being. Pressure by local inhabitants to reopen schools has been growing recently due to the serious damage the school closures are causing the students.

Stones, Firebomb Thrown at Bus

TA2011183288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] An Egged Company bus was pelted with stones and later with a firebomb in Samaria today. Our correspondent Arye Gus said the bus was on its way to Shilo this evening when it came under a hail of stones near the Al-Am'ari refugee camp. One of the passengers was slightly injured.

The bus then continued on its way, and a firebomb was thrown at it near Mazra'ah al-Sharqiyah. Nobody was hurt this time and no damage was caused.

Grenade Hurled at IDF in Gaza

TA2111080688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] A hang grenade was hurled at a motorized patrol in Gaza last night, but there were no casualties. The IDF has begun searches to find the perpetrator of the grenade attack on the patrol which was traveling on Salah al-Din Street, located at the northern entrance to Gaza and known for its many garages. The Gaza Strip was quiet this morning and daily life went on as usual.

IMI Director General Comments on Exports

TA2011100088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Nov 88 p 4

[ITIM report]

[Excerpts] Since the Yom Kippur war, the Israel Military Industries' [IMI] exports have risen from $13 million to about $450 million this year. The IDF has achieved complete independence with regard to the products supplied to it by IMI. About 75 percent of today's products were not manufactured by IMI factories 5 years ago. The IMI's annual turnover is approximately $600 million, and it has no debts. This data was released last Friday by IMI Director General Mikha'el Schor at a lecture at the Engineering Club in Tel Aviv.

Schor added that in the past 4 years, IMI has faced both the financially difficult situation in Israel and the general difficulties encountered by the international weapons industry. Even before the Gorbachev era, he said, the military tension in the world had abated, defense budgets had been cut, and a competition accompanied by lowered prices had evolved among weapons manufacturers. The orders of the Israeli defense establishment, too, had been reduced. Yet, despite all these factors, IMI's production scope and standards have risen, said Director General Schor. [passage omitted]

In 1986, IMI exported 65 percent of its products to Western countries. This year those exports have reached 88 percent. The frozen dollar rate and the fact that 70 percent of IMI's added value are derived from expenditures in local currency, have lowered its profitability. This year the IMI exchanged $320,000 for local outlay.

The director general also revealed that the propulsion unit of the Israeli missile Arrow, which is manufactured by the Israel Aircraft Industries and exported to the United States, is a product of IMI.

Drug Center Exposed; Drug Abuse Statistics Noted

TA1911073588 [Editorial Report] Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 13 November 88 in a report by Yosi Leibowitz on page six reports that the Haifa District police drug squad uncovered "a drug peddling center in the village of 'Isfiya on the Carmel mountain range, operated by a man and his wife. Some 1,160 doses of heroin worth about $175,000 were confiscated."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 15 November 88 in a report by Le'a Levavi on page two reports that "the statistics released yesterday at the opening of a conference on the prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse" reveal that "200,000 Israelis are one-time or occasional drug users, 30,000 are regular users, 15,000 are addicts, and 50 die each year as a result of drug use."

Year-Old Report Says Prisoners Given Drugs

TA2011082888 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Nov 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by police affairs correspondent Natan Ro'i]

[Excerpts] A report compiled by the Police Ministry comptroller and his assistant, Deputy Prisons Commissioner Gad Harari, warns of the danger of drug proliferation in Israeli prisons. The 1-year-old report contains information on the "industrial quiet" achieved by the means of vast quantities of drug substitutes, including adulan and methadone, both considered dangerous drugs, which are supplied by prison management.

Although the report was described as grave by those who had read it, and despite the fact that the comptroller's reports are usually open documents published by the government ministries, the drug report was never published. [passage omitted]

Prisons Commissioner Levi Sha'ul said yesterday that the Prison Service decided about 1 year ago to reduce the quantities of adulan and methadone dispensed to prisoners. He noted that methadone is hardly ever dispensed, while the adulan supplied to inmates is highly diluted. [passage omitted]

Golan Druze Want To Assist Relatives in Syria

TA1911143388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Some 800 Golan Heights Druze have made requests to visit relatives in Syria. The Interior Ministry representative in the north said his office was studying the requests, and that a fourth group of Druze would be leaving in a few days to visit relatives in Syria. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that it seems that the Druze want to go not only for family visits, but also to assist relatives with money and food because of the economic plight in Syria. Each person who leaves for Syria is entitled to take $2,000 and large quantities of flour, sugar, coffee, and cooking oil. The authorities decided not to prevent the Druze from taking subsidized foodstuffs.

Hajj Pilgrims Must Enter Saudi Arabia by Plane

TA1711160588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Saudi authorities say that Israeli Muslims wishing to make the hajj to Mecca will be allowed to enter Saudi Arabia only by plane. The Saudis did not explain their decision.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar says the decision means the travel expenses of those leaving for Mecca will double. Muslim notables in the Galilee and the Triangle today asked the director of the Minorities Division at the Ministry of Religious Affairs to take action to have this restriction cancelled to allow Israeli Muslims to travel by bus via Jordan.

CBS' Leslie Stahl Interviews King Husayn 20 Nov

JN2011211588 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 20 Nov 88

["Recording" of interview by satellite with King Husayn in Amman by Leslie Stahl of the U.S. television network CBS on 20 November carried within the program "Face the Nation"]

[Text] [Stahl] Our guest this morning from Amman, King Husayn of Jordan. Welcome, King Husayn, to "Face the Nation." It is nice to see you.

[Husayn] Thank you very much. Very happy to be with you.

[Stahl] Thank you. King Husayn, the PLO declaration out of Algiers—it appears that the United States Government does not feel that 'Arafat went far enough, he was not explict on recognizing Israel, and he did not denounce all forms of terrorism. Even some leaders in the occupied territories are saying he didn't go far enough—one of them said he just mumbled. What is your interpretation? Do you think he went far enough, or do you want to be more explicit yourself?

[Husayn] I have been involved with this problem over the many years that have passed, the acceptance of Resolution 242 by Egypt and Jordan after its adoption in 1967. I have been engaged with the United States in a constant dialogue. I believe the PLO has gone as far as it was asked to go and has contributed its share for progress towards a just and comprehensive peace.

[Stahl] So, in other words you think they have done just what you have done. Do you recognize Israel's right to exist?

[Husayn] I have always recognized Israel's right to exist since we accepted Security Council Resolution 242, but beyond that if you wish I will read some pertinent U.S. positions.

As far back as April 1985, when we were trying to arrange for a meeting between the PLO and American representatives, the U.S. agreed to hold the meetings provided the PLO met the Kissinger stipulation after the meeting. In June of this year, when we were dicussing the Shultz' initiative with our friends in Washington, we received from the State Department a written memo stating that when it is clearly on the public record that the PLO has accepted Resolutions 242 and 338, is prepared to negotiate peace with Israel, and has renounced terrorism, the United States accepts the fact that an invitatiion will be issued to the PLO to attend the international conference.

[Stahl] King Husayn, one of the problems as I undertand it is that the PLO does not denounce the other UN resolutions relating to Palestinians which had denounced Israel as illegitimate, equated Zionism with racism—it seems to be a canceling-out process and they did not change their charter, which calls for the destruction of Israel, which leaves all of this in the minds of many in the United States Government highly ambiguous and murky.

[Husayn] I do not believe this is to be the case...

[Stahl, interrupting] Can you respond?

[Husayn] I can respond by saying that by accepting 242 and 338, calling for the international conference, this position is the latest, most up-to-date one and it is the pertinent one that we are talking about at this stage.

[Stahl] Since you say that your recognition or acceptance of 242 means that you do accept Israel's right to exist, why won't 'Arafat just say that? He was asked in many interviews: Do you accept Israel's right to exist, and he wouldn't be explicit. He seems to be playing word games. You don't. Why can't he be forthright about it and just say it flat out?

[Husayn] I think he came a very very long way as did the PNC and they have accepted 242, which speaks of the rights of all states in the area to live in peace and security. Beyond that, I don't see what could be asked of the PLO at this stage.

[Stahl] Well, I think they have been asked to change their charter, explicitly say: We recognize Israel's right to exist, and denounce terrorism on all forms. Would you call on the PLO to take that extra step, or are you saying to the United States: Your position is unacceptable?

[Husayn] I believe that they have denounced terrorism time and again. They repeated that recently. They accepted 242 and 338, and this is what they were asked for. I believe that if there is any intransigence, and there is indeed, it is the Israeli position that has not changed, and, up to now, the United States' position.

[Stahl] Let us move forward. You, I gather, and 'Arafat have some kind of understanding—correct me if I am wrong—that if a Palestinian state should come into being that it would in fact be a confederation with your country, with Jordan. What does that mean?

[Husayn] I believe that the concept is of a very close relationship existing between Palestine and Jordan. We have worked on that for a number of years. We sought it here in Jordan at a certain point to enable the PLO to represent the Palestinians to enable the Palestinans to be represented in a process at least to the solution of the Palestinian problem and thus the Middle East problem. But a lot has changed since, and the Palestinians now are themselves in a position of responsibility, and they have opted to accept 242 and 338, and they are seeking just comprehsive peace within the context of an international conference we have always sought.

As far as future relations are concerned, I believe they will be close. I hope they will be based on mutual trust and on the realities of the very strong ties that exist between us. But that is...[changes thought] On the one hand the PLO insists that it should be a confederal relationship, and we believe that this may very well be the case. But have to wait for the proper time and circumstances.

[Stahl] You do not have any details to tell us about what that would look like or what would it mean?

[Husayn] Well, the original concept was obviously a Palestinian state, a Jordanian state in terms of governments in both and houses of representatives and a confederal arrangement as is the case in the relations of many similar entities.

[Stahl] King Husayn, (?this) begs the question of your own internal problems. In one of the main slogans at the Algiers meetings—let me quote—it was a Palestinian state for Palestinians everywhere. Well over 50 percent of the population of Jordan is Palestinians. Do you not see this as as threat to your own country by a Palestinian state on your border?

[Husayn] I see no threat in any form or way, and the problem is a Palestinian problem to be resolved on Palestinian territories. As for Palestinians, be they in Jordan or anywhere in the world who have been evicted from their homeland, there are pertinent UN resolutions calling for return or compensation. And I believe that this is what is meant by the Algiers declaratiuon.

[Stahl] As you probably know, very little was said about the Middle East in our presidential election that just ended, but one thing was said, and I am going to quote George Bush. He said during the campaign when he was speaking to an audience of B'nai Br'ith members that the creation of a Palestinian state would be a threat to Jordan. Can you respond?

[Husayn] I do not believe that this would be the case. In any event, what you are talking about is to go along with mood in the world as a whole of resolving problems wherever they exist, problems that threaten regional stability anywhere or world peace. A lot has been done over this past period, and I hope that with the new administration in terms of President-Elect Bush taking his responsibilities, that the United States will look again at the problem. I know this is a transitional phase, but I hope very, very much indeed that the future will see the United States actively engaged with the Soviet Union, with other permanent members of the Security Council, with all parties to the conflict in trying to resolve it. This is the last and most serious problem that besets the world.

[Stahl] So what do you think of the American reaction? I am sure you've seen what's being said over here?

[Husayn] I am optimistic. I am not pessimistic at all. I believe the problem is a priority item, will be in the coming period and it has to be resolved. There's nothing else to say about it.

[Stahl] Well, the way it looks, 'Arafat made this move. The United States rejected it, said it wasn't explicit enough. He said the ball's in the American court, but the American Government's reacted. Now it seems the ball's back in his court. Is that the way you see it? Do you think 'Arafat has enough room to maneuver within the PLO council to go any further? Does he have enough support or not to take another step, to make another statement?

[Husayn] He obviously has the support to have enabled him to come this far and this far is what he was asked to achieve. I think he has achieved it, and I'm very happy indeed that this has been the case. I believe that our friends in Washington had better go back and look at the papers and positions they adopted and they will find that there is no difference between their initial demands and requests and suggestions and what the PLO has come through with now.

[Stahl] Let me ask you about what position this puts a negotiation in, by declaring sort of the end product at the beginning of the negotiation being a Palestinian state. Does this close up the whole negotiating position of some kind of interim Palestinian entity or whatever they used to call it in the Camp David accord? Is that off the table now? Is that an impossibility? Does it make the prospect of negotiations even harder?

[Husayn] I believe a Palestinian state is obviously the end result of negotiations. The starting point is the statements made by the PNC and the PLO in response to the demand by the United States and others in this world and the formation of the international conference. The end result is the Palestinian state, obviously. On the other hand...

[Stahl, interrupting] I was going to ask you if you see yourself participating in negotiations as a partner with the Palestinians.

[Husayn] As a major party involved in the Arab-Israeli problem, certainly, but not necessarily as a partner with the Palestinians at this stage at least. We never closed the door, but I believe you could never address the Palestinian problem without the participation of the Palestinians. Now they are responsible, and they are ready to move, and they have made all the moves, and it's time for others to do the same.

[Stahl] During the Israeli elections, you said on an American interview show you thought if Yitzhaq Shamir became the prime minister it would be a disaster. But, after all, it was Menachem Begin, who was the head of the Likud Party, who negotiated the peace treaty with

Egypt. Do you really think it is that disastrous? Don't you think it's possible to work out some kind of a peace arrangement with the Likud? It's been done before.

[Husayn] I stated then and I would like to say again that if Likud holds on to the policies that it declared before of in essence saying that Palestine as is now under occupation is our land, and we will have to have peace in place, then there is no hope for peace. But on the other hand, if they are speaking of 242 and if they are speaking of its implementation—in other words territories occupied in June of 1967, then that is an entirely different situation.

By the way, Camp David was distorted. Camp David had three authors: Egypt, the United States, and Israel, and the Israeli interpretation is way out of line, and you can check obviously with former President Carter in that regard, or with Egypt. Camp David did not give the occupied territories to Israel as its land.

[Stahl] But they did swap land for peace. They gave up Sinai that they had occupied. So there is a precedent, and it was the Likud Party.

[Husayn] Fine, and this is the precedent that should obviously apply to the rest and enable us to resolve the Palestinian problem and all the other problems of the countries that still don't have peace with Israel. However...

[Stahl, interrupting] Let me... [changes thought] Can I ask you one question... [changes thought] Yes, however?

[Husayn] However, the Likud attitude up till now has been: What we occupy is our land, and the question is of people then. This is really where things have gone haywire. I hope they won't for long in the future.

[Stahl] I'd like to ask you a fast question about the internal situation inside Jordan. I understand that you've had to impose some austerity measures and even clamp down on some press freedoms. Are there some problems within your own country? Are you in any kind of trouble youself at home?

[Husayn] No, not any more or any less than what others are facing in this world, be it in this area or even in some of the much stronger countries and more powerful ones in this world. We are passing through a phase of economic difficulty brought about by the fact, in the main, that as of the Baghdad summit we were promised a lot of help, specific help, over a number of years and this hasn't materialized. So we are having to do whatever we can, to tighten our belts and at the same time to ensure that we not only pass through this phase but that in the future can Jordan stand on its own and face up to its responsibilities to its future generations and contribute to a better, more stable area.

[Stahl] Thank you very much, King Husayn for being our guest this morning. It's always a pleasure to have you with us.

[Husayn] Thank you. It's such a pleasure to be with you.

Kuwaiti Paper on Arrival of PLO's 'Abbas

JN1911123288 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 Nov 88 p 18

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, arrived in Amman yesterday on a visit to Jordan lasting several days. Abu Mazin will acquaint Jordanian officials with results of the recent PNC meetings in Algiers and the PLO's current and future orientation as stipulated by the PNC political statement.

USSR Recognition of Palestinian State Viewed

JN2011111488 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Nov 88, p 20

["From the Present" column by Ibrahim Abu Nab: "Recognizing the Declaration of the State"]

[Text] What do the Soviets mean by recognizing the declaration of the Palestinian state and not the state itself, claiming that the state is non-existent and its borders are unknown?

What do the Soviets mean by doing this despite their extraordinary attendance of the PNC session which declared the state, where the Soviets had the most influence on its establishment in the way it did or did not come about, represented by Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] confession when he uttered his famous words, "The Soviets want it like this."

Perhaps the French were more elegant than the Soviets in wearing the same hat. Their foreign minister said his country would like to recognize the declared Palestinian state, but does not know where to send the French ambassador to that country to. It is as though the French ambassador wondered in a harsh softness or soft harshness: Where is this country you have declared, you Palestinians? Is it in the air somewhere or on paper? And do you want France to deal with real or imaginary things?

The problem seems real and unprecedented in diplomatic history and records of the establishment of states were it not that the two states—that is the Soviet Union and France, in addition to the other states that recognized Israel as soon as it was declared on 15 May 1948—did what they did when Israel was still in the imagination of its fathers Chaim Weizman, David Ben Gurion, and Moshe Shartuk [name as published] and mother Golda Meir.

Perhaps the fathers and mothers of the Palestinian state—Abu 'Ammar, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Abu al-Lutf [Faruq al-Qaddumi], and Umm Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir]—moved according to this example. They probably hope and expect the countries to act after the PLO revives history. Perhaps Palestinian expectations, especially from the Soviets, were greater than from any other country, because the Soviets did not attend the birth of the state as neutral watchers but as active observers.

However, the Soviets, no matter what they do, are right because no one can blame them for not changing their traditions in their diplomatic relations—based on serving Soviet interests first, which incidentally, is the same aim of diplomacy in every country. Recognizing the declaration of the state, as far as the Soviets are concerned, does not tie them to any commitments toward this state whose declaration has been recognized. It is a mere act of informing and making known that the duty of ploughing the land remains up to those who own it and no one can be the wheels.

As for recognizing the state, whether we like it or not, it still carries a commitment toward it to deal with it, at least on the basis that it exists, such as exchanging ambassadors and accepting the passports and other official documents issued by it. Also, recognizing the Palestinian state in its present form carries a certain amount of commitment to help it to come into existence. If the Soviets do not want to do that, then they must have their reasons.

Some of their reasons might be their agreement with their enemy friends, the Americans, that it is not possible to impose solutions on the Israelis from outside, but that that should happen through direct negotiations under the umbrella of the proposed international conference to solve the Middle East crisis. Perhaps the Soviets' excuse is also that all roads lead to Rome. But the question which we should ask the Soviets, or actually ourselves is: What ensures us that this road will really lead to Rome? Would not declaring the state in Jerusalem itself, as we proposed earlier, have made it easier for our friends' recognition of the Palestinian state and not recognition of its declaration?

No matter what the situation is, we are at the moment facing a reality we cannot escape from. What should we do? The only way out is a cohesive national Palestinian unity as an indivisible part of large-scale Arab, Islamic, and universal solidarity to bring the state into existence. It is not possible to ask others to recognize this state while its sons and people take various stands on it under some pretense. Declaring the state could be or should be beneficial for a call to rally around the flag and a chance to order the ranks by directing all stands to the right path.

Accordingly, the statement on the Palestinian state made by an official Syrian source has captured the attention of the PLO's leadership. The source said that Syria supports the establishment of the Palestinian state and sees that unifying the Palestinian arena on solid struggle grounds and supporting the popular Palestinian uprising and Arab resistance confronting Israeli occupation is the right path to regain the land and retrieve our rights.

The question is: Who sees anything other than that? Then, what is everyone waiting for?

Columnist Extends 'Greeting' to John Sununu

JN2011134088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
20 Nov 88 pp 20, 14

[Article by Ibrahim Sakkijha: "Sununu the Arab in a Key U.S. Post"]

[Text] O U. S. and world Jewry who are in an unholy alliance with Zionism, choke to death! In our conflict over and for the White House, the news has finally come that we have won.

You wanted "Kitty" to be the first lady in the White House to pass your orders to "Michael" who would carry them out without discussion and any further thought or consideration had he become the 41st President of the United States. On the other hand, we did not aspire to have anyone in the White House. All we hoped for was to see George Bush elected since he would be the lesser of two evils.

Still, God has been kind to us, the Arabs, and he chose from among us a Palestinian to become chief of staff in the White House. Thus, John Sununu has occupied the second most important post in the U.S. Administration. Sununu is a staunch Republican in the United States. He is the governor of an American state. Above all, he is a true and staunch Palestinian, who has studied Zionism and understood its practices on the land of reality, in his homeland Palestine. This is why Zionism is making such a big hullabaloo in the United States and the whole world over this man, who is an expert in its affairs, who knows how to deal with it, and who has suffered with his people from its practices, when he lost his homeland, including his land, house, and food.

This John Sununu, with his experiences and sufferings, will be one of those to plan U.S. policy, including its Middle East policy in the next 4 years, and carry it out. While we understand and appreciate Sununu's circumstances and do not ask the impossible, we also understand and commend his courage. We know his declared stand on racist Zionism and his insistence on this stand despite all the pressures and circumstances. More than that, we understand his strong pride in his Arab roots.

A greeting, vexing the enemies, to John Sununu, the Arab, in his key U.S. post.

Syrian Defense Minister Arrives in Beirut

NC2111120488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas arrived in Beirut aboard a private plane which landed at Beirut International Airport today. Syrian military sources have said that Gen Talas will inspect the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon and will perhaps hold political exchanges with Lebanese officials.

Red Cross Official Discusses Wingler Abduction

NC1911172488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] International Red Cross Committee official (Cross) visited Sidon this morning and met with Dr Usamah Sa'd, deputy leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization. They discussed the latest developments regarding the abduction of Swiss national Peter Wingler.

(Cross) then went to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, where he met with Palestinian groups. He later returned to Sidon and held a meeting with officials at the Headquarters of the International Red Cross Committee. The discussion centered on the efforts and contacts being made to secure Wingler's release.

Kidnapped Shi'ite Scholar Reportedly Killed

NC1911114588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] REUTER, citing high level sources in the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council in Beirut, reported a short while ago that scholar 'Abdallah al-Gharifi, head of the Ja'farite Awqaf Department in the UAE, who was kidnapped there on Tuesday, has been killed. His kidnappers told his relatives to leave Abu Dhabi and informed them that the body will be handed over to them at a later time.

Shi'ite Ulema Issue Statement

NC2111064188 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The grouping of Al-Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] ulema has accused the UAE of arresting a ranking Shi'ite scholar and handing him over to the Bahraini authorities. In a statement issued yesterday, the grouping emphasized that Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Gharifi, head of the Shi'ite Awqaf department in the UAE, was handed over to the Bahraini authorities. The grouping warned against harming Shaykh al-Gharifi.

Fadlallah Conveys Khomeyni Message to Muslims

LD1811212088 Tehran IRNA in English 2110 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 18, IRNA—'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah conveyed Imam Khomeyni's message to Lebanese militant Muslims here Friday.

Speaking at the Friday mass prayers in Imam Reza Mosque, southern Lebanon, Fadlallah briefed the congregation on the Islamic Revolution's achievements in its struggle against the world-devourers and stressed the underlying religious and anti-temporal ideology of the Islamic revolution under Imam Khomeyni's leadership.

He said in his recent meeting with Imam Khomeyni the imam had cautioned him about the threats of the U.S. plots against the Islamic ummah.

"The imam said that Islam had threatened the interests of the United States, and had arrested the influence of the global arrogance in the world," said Fadlallah.

"Imam Khomeyni," said Fadhlallah, "has asked the Lebanese Muslims to stand against the arrogance and to rely on Islam and not fear any plots or pressure."

Adverting to the recent political developments in the region, Fadhlallah denounced the Palestine National Council's (PNC) acceptance of the U.N. Resolution 242.

"We are not against the establishment of an independent Palestinian government, but we look forward to the establishment of a Palestinian state," he observed.

Hizballah, Fadlallah on Palestinian Declaration

NC1911081388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Commenting on the declaration of the Palestinian state spelled out in the PNC resolutions issued in Algiers last week, Hizballah issued a statement in which it emphasized that the Jihad is the only way to liberate Palestine and that anything else is delusion, deception, and a waste of the spirit of resistance.

The statement maintains that the Algiers resolutions constitute a full submission to the conditions of the states exhibiting global arrogance. They also constitute a grave strategic retreat which dissipates the nation's potential and squanders the martyrs' blood and gains in return for false promises.

The statement goes on to say that the resolutions represent a severe blow dealt to the Islamic uprising in occupied Palestine. Hizballah voiced support for the establishment of a revolutionary Palestinian authority that could organize areas to be liberated through the Jihad. Hizballah added: We condemn every declaration which contains even an implicit recognition of the Zionist enemy.

Accordingly, Hizballah added: We condemn the declaration of 'Arafat's state because this declaration is based on recognition of the partition Resolution No. 181 for 1948 which contains a clear-cut recognition of the legitimate status of the Zionists.

In a similar development, during his Friday sermon delivered in the Al-Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd [in Beirut's southern suburb] yesterday, Ayatollah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah categorically rejected the Palestinian state declared by 'Arafat. He added that this state is an attempt to circumvent the Islamic uprising and is part of the Arab political concessions. Scholar Fadlallah noted that the declaration of this state is the fruit of Shultz' initiative, which aims to wipe out the uprising.

Hizballah Turns Down Iraqi President's Proposal

NC1911071888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Hizballah has turned down Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's call for a dialogue and reiterated its strategic alliance with Syria. It should be recalled that the Iraqi president has emphasized that his country is making political efforts to ensure withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon. The Iraqi leader expressed readiness to conduct a dialogue with all Lebanese parties, including Hizballah for the sake of Lebanon's unity.

More on Hizballah's Response

NC1911101288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0930 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] An official Hizballah source has responded to [Iraqi President] Saddam Husayn's recent statements, saying: Saddam is playing a Zionist role by sowing sedition and sparking off wars in areas confronting Israel. Saddam's role is represented by his collaboration with the Ja'ja'-'Awn alliance which aims to distract the attention of Syria and its allies from the main cause: Confrontation of Israel and its Lebanese tools.

The officials Hizballah source went on to say: We are well aware of the role being played by the tyrant Saddam Husayn. We will work relentlessly to chop off Saddam's fingers, which extend into the Lebanese arena. We will teach Saddam and his agents an unforgettable, eloquent lesson. The source added that Hizballah is very much determined to preserve its strategic ties with Syria based on confronting Israel and its agents. Likewise, Hizballah is determined to give every means of support to the Iraqi opposition forces which are struggling to overthrow Zionist Saddam.

Al-Husayni Discusses Current Issues

JN2011132088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Nov 8 p 16

[Interview with Husayn al-Husayni, Chamber of Deputies speaker, by Ma'ruf al-Da'uq in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Da'uq] Where does Lebanon stand at present and are there any initiatives for a solution expected soon?

[Al-Husayni] There is no doubt that the march was long and the direction known since the start of the events in Lebanon which intermingled with the international and external events. This made it very complicated in addition to the recurrent Israeli invasions of Lebanon in September 1973 to March 1978, ending with the Israeli invasion of 1982 which complicated issues even further. [passage omitted]

Lebanon's strategy in solving its crisis rests on implementing the international resolutions in the south, specifically Resolutions Nos 425 and 426. It also rests on achieving intra-Lebanese national accord which would allow the establishment of a strong central government capable of sending the army to the South to participate in the implementation of these resolutions. These strategies, which I have expressed very briefly as a solution to our crisis and as a starting point to the solutions in the region, are the ones expressed in the latest Syrian-U.S. agreement.

Therefore, I say that Lebanon is moving in this direction. This direction does not mean that the hindrances created by Israel and by some of the factions who would suffer from dissolving the militias, especially the Lebanese Forces militia, could hamper and delay solving the crisis, but they definitely cannot cancel the Lebanese direction and intents to solve the crisis. Lebanon is not lost. Lebanon is moving in the direction I have just mentioned despite the dangers created by the Lebanese Forces militias with the intention of creating their own entity. We will not belittle these dangers to the Lebanese people. They have managed to be steadfast for 14 years. They have to be even more steadfast and confront such partitionist views in a united nation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Da'uq] Do you believe that the U.S. elections will be followed by an implementation of the field steps to execute the Syrian-U.S. agreement?

[Al-Husayni] What concerns me about the election of President Bush, who is of the same ruling party as President Reagan's, is the continuation of this international detente, the effects of which were to cancel the hotbeds of tension in the world and solve the regional disputes. According to the international equation, when the international tension is high, especially the tension between the United States and the Soviet Union, it is difficult to end regional disputes, since these tensions are used as a substitute for direct confrontation between the two states or the international sides.

The international detente march which started during the terms of Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev, should continue down the same path and with the same aims, especially the agreement between them to solve the Middle East crisis through peaceful means and to hold an international peace conference in which all parties to the conflict participate, including the five permanent members of the Security Council. [passage omitted]

[Al-Da'uq] When you called a parliamentary session last month at the end of your term as speaker, a near consensus emerged among deputies from East and West

Beirut that a situation of having two house speakers should be avoided. Do you perceive this as a unionist reality or a rejection of getting carried away with extremism as the beginnings of agreement among the Lebanese to rebuild their country?

[Al-Husayni] The trust my fellow deputies placed in me during my speakership is something I am proud and grateful of. The stand taken by the deputies following the obstruction of the vote to elect a house speaker has more to it that just trust in me. It signifies a full appreciation of the immensity and aims of an Israeli conspiracy. Essentially the Israeli blueprint calls for dealing a blow to the Chamber of Deputies as the legitimate barrier to erecting secessionist entities. [passage omitted]

[Al-Da'uq] There has been much talk about settling Palestinians in Lebanon as a prelude to an international Mideast peace conference. Do you think such a step stands a chance?

[Al-Husayni] In the aftermath of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the establishment of a sectarian security zone, it emerged that Israel may want to erect a Palestinian security belt in Sidon, east Sidon, and the Al-Kharrub region as expressed in settlement attempts. I believe, however, that this is absolutely impossible for Israel and the Palestinian leaders who got caught up the scheme to achieve. If it were allowed to materialize, such an orientation would amount to high treason against the rights of the fraternal Palestinian people, who want repatriation to their homeland rather than resettlement elsewhere.

Further, it would deal a knockout to the Lebanese entity. The Lebanese people have unarguably proved themselves absolutely opposed to such attempts and showed that realizing them is impossible. Under the circumstances, there is a pressing need to restore Arab solidarity, backing front-line states and making available all means to help the Palestinian people attain their legitimate rights, using such effective action as the Palestinian uprising which we, the Lebanese, claim as an offspring of the Lebanese nationalist resistance in southern Lebanon.

The Lebanese nationalist resistance exploded the myth of an invincible Israel. Even without the slightest Arab help, the unarmed Lebanese people have put up resistance and inflicted the heaviest losses on the Israeli military. The Lebanese resistance is still doing its duty defending Lebanon and the entire Arab nation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Da'uq] Do you believe that the current Arab move to assist Lebanon will produce any tangible results, given current inter-Arab differences, especially in the Lebanese arena?

[Al-Husayni] The major problem is the Arab differences. The current Arab move should produce Arab solidarity. If Arab solidarity is achieved, the Lebanese crisis will be resolved without slogans calling for a solution. Lebanon's major problem is the absence of Arab solidarity. When this solidarity comes about, there will be no need for Arab assistance. Lebanon can solve its problem without slogans. The main problem is the absence of the Arab solidarity. [passage omitted]

[Al-Da'uq] Does this mean that the current Arab moves will be fruitless and will not benefit Lebanon because of the current Arab differences?

[Al-Husayni] They will be fruitless as long as they do not take into consideration the Arab responsibility to confront Israel. They are useless propaganda moves. Our problem is with Israel. Arab solidarity curbs Israel. If the Arabs had had solidarity, Israel would not have stormed Lebanese territory in 1973, 1978, and 1982.

[Al-Da'uq] Following the Israeli and U.S. elections, can we portray or imagine the future situation in the Middle East, especially the convening of the international peace conference on the region?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, the international community wants to convene a conference in light of the current international detente to resolve the Middle East problem and enable the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights and return to their land. This is the desire of the international community. I can say that the Likud's victory in the Israeli elections, regardless of whether a coalition government is formed or a Likud government is formed in cooperation with the religious parties, is in the Arabs' interest because it proves there is no difference between the Likud and the Labor Party over the region's problem.

I believe Israel has one strategy, to which every Likud and Labor Party official in the government adheres. The Likud's assumption of power is in the Arabs' interests because the Likud shows Israel's real face and is exposed both in the West and the East, while the Labor Party can conceal the reality of Israel and benefit from its contacts with Western circles and the Socialist International. This will constitute an obstacle for the Arabs and Arab solidarity. Therefore, we should stop wagering on Israel's intentions for peace. [passage omitted]

[Al-Da'uq] Will the appointment of an acting Army commander by the government of Salim al-Huss in Western Beirut reflect a positive atmosphere in so far as relations between the Lebanese parties are concerned, or will it be a complicated step leading to further estrangement between these parties?

[Al-Husayni] The government of Salim al-Huss is, of course, treating the negativity that has resulted. The whole situation cannot be placed within the framework of positivity; rather, it is in the negative framework. We are facing the risk of dividing and disintegrating Lebanon through the alliance in Eastern Beirut between the Army commander and the Lebanese Forces, which is a party to the conflict. This has made this government lose any legitimacy. Also, the Army commander became involved in nominating himself for the Presidency. He entered the political struggle, which contradicts his role as commander of the Army. This is in addition to the fact that the Army commander can by no means push the Army into an alliance with a militia force, whether this militia is called the Lebanese Forces or something else. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the government was obliged to make a decision. It did well not to appoint a commander for the Army but assigned an officer to assume the duties of Army commander until things return to normal and the government is able to remove the trouble that resulted from the Army commander's involvement in political issues.

[Al-Da'uq] Is the Army commander, Michel 'Awn, continuing to obstruct the Syrian-U.S. agreement on the presidential elections?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, he is not in a position to act. He has become a cover for the Lebanese Forces to expand in all of the eastern area. We have seen these forces expanding in the Al-Matn region using him for cover, unable to do anything positive or negative. Ample proof is that the Lebanese Forces are in control in the eastern areas.

[Al-Da'uq] Do you expect presidential elections to be held soon in Lebanon?

[Al-Husayni] Expectation is one thing, and endeavor is something else. We are endeavoring. The mission for me and my fellow deputies is not to read the future but to seek to find the appropriate atmosphere that will expedite the presidential elections and the establishment of a strong central government, based on political reform and genuine national reconciliation enabling the Lebanese to restore their sovereignty and independence and liberate their land.

Amal, Syrian Intelligence Elements Clash
NC2111100188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] According to a security report from West Beirut, a clash occurred between Syrian intelligence service personnel and Amal members in the Al-'Ijjah area at approximately 1115 today. The Lebanese Army's 6th brigade intervened to stop the fighting. Gunfire continues to be heard in the area. We have also learned that elements of the Syrian intelligence service have deployed in the area as far as the Al-'Amiliyah College. They are searching vehicles going into the eastern area.

Syrians Vacate Positions in Southern Suburb
NC1911123888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] According to security reports from the southern suburb, the Syrian occupation forces have vacated their positions in the Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah areas. The same reports indicated that Amal Movement members and personnel of the 6th brigade equipped with T-54 tanks have replaced the Syrians.

Palestinian 'Guerrillas' Attack Israeli Position
NC1811170388 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Nov 18 (AFP)—Palestinian guerrillas launched a rocket attack Friday on an Israeli post in south Lebanon, in the second anti-Israeli raid in 24 hours, regional security sources said.

One of the four guerrillas was injured in the clash that took place in Kafr Shuba village, near the Israeli-Lebanese-Syrian border intersection, the sources said, without giving details on possible Israeli casualties.

Israeli troops chased the four fighters as they fled from the village located inside Israel's "security zone", a strip of territory controlled jointly by the Israeli army and militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

Security sources said earlier that leftist guerrillas of the Lebanese National Resistance Front (LNRF) attacked another Israeli post in the "security zone" late Thursday with rocket-propelled grenades.

An LNRF official said five of the group's fighters mounted the raid on a position jointly held by Israeli troops and the SLA at Al-'Ayshbiyah, 15 kilometres (10 miles) from Israel's border.

The attack left several soldiers and SLA fighters dead or injured, the LNRF spokesman said. One LNRF fighter was also wounded, but he was evacuated.

'Enemy' Planes Fly in Mock Raids Over Mountain
NC1911101488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Enemy warplanes flew over the mountain region and carried out mock raids over Dahr al-Wahsh and Al-Matn at 1050 today. Twenty minutes later, the nationalist positions in Dahr al-Wahsh came under machinegun fire from the Al-Villat and Al-Qartabawi areas. Meanwhile, intensive movement of armored vehicles was monitored in the Al-Kahhalah area.

Israeli Gunboat Stops Ship; Others Approach Tyre
NC2111061388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] An Israeli gunboat intercepted a ship on the high seas and subjected it to a search yesterday. Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats approached the Ra's al-'Ayn coast of Tyre but were checked by Amal Movement machinegun fire.

Officials Receive Austrian Army Commander

JN1911131488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 1300 today General Johann Philip, commander of the Austrian Army; and Gen Radauer, commander of the UN disengagement forces. The Austrian ambassador in Damascus and Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah attended the meeting.

Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, this morning received Gen Johann Philip, commander of the Austrian Army, and Gen Radauer, commander of the UN disengagment forces. The meeting was attended by Maj Gen 'Adnan Tayyarah, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the truce committee. Discussion revolved around the cordial relations between the Syrian and Austrian armies and means to promote them.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also received Gen Johann Philip this morning. The meeting was attended by Maj Gen 'Adnan Tayyarah and the Austrian ambassador in Damascus. Discussion revolved around current developments in the region.

Press Reacts to Iraqi Stand on Lebanon

JN1911084288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: The newspapers' editorials and comments have dealt with the situation in Lebanon and Syria's salvation role in Lebanon and sacrifices to confront the partition scheme and to safeguard Lebanon's Arabism and unity—land and people. The newspapers also deal with the Iraqi regime's suspect role, continuous plots against Lebanon, support for the Zionist clique, and supplying this clique with arms to implement the Israeli scheme to tear up and fragment Lebanon in preparation for creating seditions and fires in the Arab homeland.

Under the headline "Lebanon Will Confront the Fascist Regime's Plot," AL-BA'TH says: Out of its firm national and pan-Arab principles and awareness of the devastating dangers threatening the Arab nation, Al-Asad's Syria has realized that confronting the Zionist enemy in every place targetted by its covetousness and expansionist intentions is a duty dictated by higher Arab interests. There is no difference in this between Palestine and Lebanon because any Israeli infiltration into any Arab area is an infiltration into the entire Arab homeland. And any victory achieved by Syria and the nationalist Arab forces over Israel is a victory for all Arabs.

AL-BA'TH affirms Syria's determination to continue its national role regardless of sacrifices, obstacles, and plots concocted by Israel or its agent tools charged with implementing some links in the serious plot. At the top of those agents is the bloody fascist regime in Iraq which is waiting to begin the implementation of a new link in Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH reviews the plots of the bloody regime against the Iranian revolution and Iraq's sons. It says that after this criminal role, the Iraqi regime now turns to Lebanon to announce with every impudence and blatancy its readiness to play the role that Israel failed to play—that is, to partition and fragment Lebanon and reignite the civil war in that country.

Under the headline "The Iraqi Regime and the Suspect Role," AL-THAWRAH says: The Iraqi regime's stand on the current situation in Lebanon has not been a surprise. On the contrary, this is the natural stand of the fascist regime that converges with the Israeli stand and is in harmony with its interests whether in Lebanese or Arab arenas.

AL-THAWRAH notes the dangers of the Iraqi regime's plot on Lebanon and the Arab nation. The newspaper calls for exposing this conspiratorial role of the Iraqi regime. Exposing this role has become an urgent mission particularly since the methods and tools to be used by the Iraqi regime to reignite the Lebanese fire have fallen into the hands of the adventurers who are planning to partition and fragment Lebanon supported by Israel.

The nationalist Lebanese forces in particular and the Lebanese people in general are called upon to be aware of the dangers and the Zionist dimensions of this role as well as the effects which might result from the Saddam-'Awn alliance on the Lebanese arena. The fraternal Lebanese people, who confronted the [Israeli] invasion and foiled its results and repercussions, can topple the agents and symbols regardless of their cover and roles.

TISHRIN also writes about the Iraqi regime's suspect role, its plot being implemented against Lebanon, and its slanders against Syria. TISHRIN says: When the fascist Iraqi regime regrets the absence of the so-called Arab initiative this means that the Arabs will not be dragged to the plot of slanders, distortion, and collusion. The Arabs have said their word on Lebanon's events. All of them have asserted that they support Lebanese unity and national reconciliation.

In this, they converge with Syria and the higher pan-Arab interests. The Arabs also denounce every attempt to partition and tear up Lebanon. The partition is an Israeli plot aimed at Zionizing and devouring this state as happened in the Arab Palestine. No Arab who is honest to the nation and its causes will stand with hands folded while the plot to partition Lebanon goes on.

TISHRIN adds: Syria is proud because it sent its forces to prevent the partition of Lebanon in response to the Lebanese people's appeal. Syria is also proud because it foiled Israel's plot. The Lebanese adhere to Syria's fraternal salvation role.

Commentary on Iraq's 'Rancor' Against Syria

JN2011163988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Baghdad rulers have of late been indulging their rancor against Syria to the extent that they have declared that their main concern is to mobilize Arab efforts to pressure Syria into removing its forces from Lebanon—despite the fact that the Syrian forces have been assuming a pan-Arab role to preserve Lebanon's unity and prevent the fragmentation of Lebanon and its annexation to Israel.

Naturally, Arab citizens who have known this anti-Arab, fascist regime only too well have not expected it to call on Arabs to close ranks and save fraternal Lebanon from the greed of the Zionist enemy and its expansionist, hegemonistic plans. However, by openly declaring this position, this regime has exposed itself and its allegiance.

It is no longer a secret that Saddam's Gulf war—aimed at diverting the Arabs' attention from their main enemy, Israel—has rendered a great service to the Israeli enemy, who exploited the time when many Arabs were engaged in this war to invade sisterly Lebanon in 1982. Syria was the only Arab state to confront this invasion and remain steadfast and resistant. Subsequently, Syria supported the Lebanese nationalist forces until the invaders weakened and retreated.

Iraqi officials called for intensifying Arab efforts to end what they called Syria's occupation, forgeting the Israeli occupation forces. Thus, it is clear that these officials, blinded by their rancor against Syria and its pan-Arab role in Lebanon, want the Arabs to punish Syria for playing this role and for the sacrifices it made to confront the Zionist invasion.

Notwithstanding the fact that the honorable Arabs everywhere expressed and continue to express their extreme appreciation for Syria's pan-Arab role in Lebanon and that none of them would lend an ear to the prevarications of the fascist regime in Baghdad, it is clear that this regime has become so vain from being extricated from the war and the way in which the war ended that it has fallen under the illusion that the time of reckoning, internally and on the Arab level, has been postponed. This vanity was reflected in its practices on Iraqi and Arab levels.

Internally, and to preempt any popular moves against it, the regime resorted to a bestial war of liquidation and extermination against the national opposition forces. World media are still reporting on the massacres and the bodily liquidation of hundreds of military personnel and civilians. Local and international statements were issued, denouncing the fascist regime's practices against the Iraqi people. The regime reacted by accusing international parties of supporting these denunciations. The regime attempted to contain these statements by expelling some Western diplomats, but its attempts ended in a diplomatic scandal.

The fascist regime claimed that Western parties had been behind uncovering the dimensions of its massacres against the Iraqi people. Yet, a few days later, the regime opened the door to the same parties for economic investment. Thus, the regime drew a clear line between opening the door for Western trusteeship over the Iraqi economy and forcing these parties to remain silent on its crimes at home.

It is obvious that even if the regime has succeeded in silencing the international campaigns of denunciation against it by bribing certain Western sides and allowing them to invest their capital in Iraq, this clearly will not end the regime's crisis with its people. Silencing denunciations from abroad will not stop popular rebellion against the regime at home.

The deliverance of the Iraqi people from this regime will be realized only at the hands of this people. It cannot come from abroad. Undoubtedly, the day of reckoning is coming regardless of the regime's repression at home and no matter how it has tried to gag denunciators abroad.

Afghanistan

U.S. Journalist 'Mysteriously Killed'

LD2111074788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 20, BAKHTAR—An American lady Karen Baker who had illegally entered Afghanistan as a journalist, with members of Gaylani extremist group in Seyyed Karam of Paktia Province had been mysteriously killed of intoxication and her body were transferred to Pakistan later. It is most likely that this mysterious murder is committed by a rival group.

Earlier another person under a cover up name of journalist of foreign country had also entered Afghanistan along with three members of Gulbuddin extremist group and was killed by persons of Muhammad 'Ali, a ringleader of extremist group of Rabbani along with his guards in Nangarhar and the camera of the so called journalist and arms of his guards were taken as a booty.

Gorbachev Sends Greetings on Return From India

LD2111093188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 20, BAKHTAR—General Secretary of the CPSU CC and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, M.S. Gorbachev addressed a message to the president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA CC, Najibullah while his plane was crossing the airspace of the Republic of Afghanistan on his way back home from New Delhi.

The message wishes successes for President Najibullah and the state of Afghanistan, realization of the national reconciliation policy and peace as well as compromise to the people of Afghanistan.

Najibullah Speaks to National Assembly 20 Nov

LD2011235688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Speech by President Najibullah to the final session of the Milli Shura held at the Foreign Ministry's Storay Palace 20 November; recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear Milli Shura members, credible representatives of the people. In accordance with Article 86 of the Constitution, the first round of Milli Shura meetings ends today. Over the past 3 months, you accomplished great things. The decisions and resolutions you passed will have great importance in strengthening democracy and legality in society. [passage omitted]

I would like to enlighten you on the political situation of the country. The signing of the Geneva accords and the withdrawal of 50 percent of the Soviet Union's limited contingents, as well as our persistent initiatives and concessions during the current year, comprise the important events determining the development of the situation in Afghanistan. It has been proved that the observance of the Geneva accords for the implementation of peace has become a determining and key issue.

With regret, I must say that Pakistan and the United States have blatantly disregarded the Geneva accords. Pakistani and U.S. Government military rulers are limiting the observance of the Geneva accords to the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents. Pay attention! If the purpose of the Geneva accords had only been the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents, then why should Pakistan as a party and the United States as a guarantor sign them? The withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents could have been obtained through an understanding between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. So, what was the need for signing such an international document?

A few days ago at the joint session of the Milli Shura, we forwarded new proposals on the neutralization, nonalignment, and demilitarization of Afghanistan and the full guarantee of human rights and all political freedoms. We are looking forward to the reaction of the international forums. It is clearly seen that the absolute majority of Afghans, whether inside or outside the country, support our peace proposals and view them with great hope.

If subversive activities had not been intensified and if Pakistani militarists and the U.S. Government had not backed the extremists, then the policy of national reconciliation would have advanced rapidly, and the peaceful life of the people would have been restored. However, in the first days after the signing of the Geneva accords, we noticed that interference in some border provinces by the Pakistani military circles reached the level of attacks. You noticed how savagely and ruthlessly the extremists attacked cities, looted dwellings and shops, and set fire to state establishments and sacred places.

Your saw examples of this in Konduz, Takhar, Konarha, Bamian, and other areas. Our gallant and brave people will never forgive these atrocities, this ruthlessness. We made changes in our front ranks in keeping with national reconciliation and military-defense policy. We withdrew our contigent from some border administrative units, including Konarha, so that the refugees could return easily and unimpeded to their homes and areas. However, the extremists abused this action, meeting it with subversion and plunder. You noticed that in 1 night of dominance in Vardak, the extremists managed to wipe out what took the people there 100 years to create.

We recall Konduz: The sighs and cries of mothers, children, and peace-loving people of that area still reach our ears. See what happened in Konarha: After the withdrawal of government forces, extremists inhumanely and savagely looted dwellings and destroyed state buildings. They destroyed power lines which provided the people with electricity. The extremists eventually started fighting each other over the distribution of the booty. These are some small examples of the extremists' dominance, which can be clearly seen in the areas they occupied. Pakistani military circles and their friends believe that with the extremists' help they will install a regime of their liking in Afghanistan and use it as a strong base against other countries.

Recently, in Western circles and among the opposition a real hue and cry has been heard over the Soviet Union infringing on the Geneva accords by suspending the withdrawal of the rest of its contingents. I would say that one-half of the limited Soviet contigents have left, in accordance with the time-table envisaged in the Geneva accords, while Pakistani and U.S. military rulers have not taken a single step toward observing the Geneva accords.

The suspension of the Soviet withdrawal is not an infringement of the Geneva accords. What constitutes an infringement is the other side's call to suspend the full enforcement of the Geneva accords under the conditions imposed upon us by the armed opposition groups, with the backing of Pakistan and the United States, which prevents the withdrawal of the Soviet troops.

I state clearly that Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have fulfilled their pledges in accordance with the Geneva accords, and the opposite side has consistently evaded them. Western circles have also raised a hue and cry over Afghanistan's obtaining new weapons and unleashed waves of propaganda. They consider this a violation of the Geneva accords.

Regular convoys carrying a variety of lethal weapons of effective Western military technology are being brought to our country by the extremists, and the Pakistani militia's actions against our popular sovereignty has greatly increased and encourages the armed opposition to emphasize a military solution to the Afghan situation, despite our peaceful proposals. Meanwhile, these Western [word indistinct] and radios are silent and do not consider this action contrary to the Geveva accords.

The Afghan Armed Forces in accordance with the constitution protect Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty, and terrorial integrity. Therefore, the Armed Forces have the right to enhance the level of their defense capability in order to defend the people's right to life and freedom, and to equip itself with new weapons and technology suitable for the defense situation of the country.

Our Armed Forces are accomplishing their tasks and responsibilities to defend the country's territorial integrity, independence, and security. We saw good examples of such heroism in Qalat, Vardak, Ghazni, Konduz, Nangarhar, and Qandahar. We are confident that our Armed Forces will continue to accomplish their patriotic tasks courageously and with high morale. We have said before and say again that the Republic of Afghanistan and its popular Armed Forces pursue a defensive military policy.

If war is not imposed on us, we will obtain modern technology for production instead of new weapons for war. However, if our opposition, emphasizes, as usual, a military solution, we will have take a defensive posture. I state categorically that the extremists must understand that nothing will be achieved through war and they will end up in retreat with heavy losses from the blows of the Armed Forces.

The Republic of Afghanistan went to the United Nations and asked for its assessment of the threat directed against our territorial integrity and popular rule which has intensified since the signing of the Geneva accords. We are grateful for the good efforts of the United Nations which, in its 43d session, approved a resolution on the Afghan situation and its effect on international peace and security.

This resolution emphasized the formation of an Afghan government based on broad, multiple foundations and with the participation of all Afghan strata. It also emphasized dialogue and negotiation among Afghans. Also of great importance to us is that the resolution asked the UN secretary general and his personal envoy to encourage and facilitate the implementation of a political solution in Afghanistan based on the articles of the Geneva accords and the resolution of the 43d UN session.

In this regard it is natural that we view with hope the political developments in neighboring Pakistan. As we can see, it has been a long time since general elections were held in Pakistan. Displaying political consciousness and perception, the people of Pakistan resolutely defeated the flagbearers of militarism throughout Pakistan. They proved with their votes that they reject the policy of the militarists and know that resolving political issues through military means has no prospects or future. You know it is something that we have consistently stated, and today also we say that we are not in favor of solving political matters through military means. [applause]

We congratulate the elected delegates of the people of Pakistan from the bottom of our hearts and look forward to their choosing logical, constructive, and peaceful positions and policies, in the interest of the Pakistani people and the interests of all Muslim peoples of the region. In this way they will gain the cooperation and understanding of the people and Government of Afghanistan.

It would not be out of place, after the electoral process in Pakistan, to assess the events in Nangarhar and Qandahar. Afghan extremists and their protectors in Pakistani ruling circles attempted to favorably influence the electoral process in Pakistan by achieving some military successes to strengthen those warmongering circles hostile to the people in that country and, ultimately, to postpone the elections in Pakistan on the pretext of border clashes.

With decisive and calculated steps, the Republic of Afghanistan on the one hand dealt shattering blows to the aggressive extremists, and on the other, displayed unprecedented patience concerning the border situation and foiled the sinister designs and conspiracies planned as a pretext to delay the Pakistani elections.

Allow me at this meeting to express sincere thanks on behalf of the people of Afghanistan to the heroic units and companies of the Afghan Armed Forces. [applause] In Qandahar, Nangarhar, and other border regions, in line with the worthy traditions of their brave fathers and forefathers, they displayed deeds in armed struggle against murderers and aggressors which constitute a new chapter in Afghan history on courage and manhood.

These events once again proved that the Muslim peoples of Afghanistan and Pakistan have common interests. This reality demands goodneighborliness, complete understanding, and cooperation between the two countries. In line with the principles of the Afghan Constitution, we want good relations with all countries, in particular with neighboring and Islamic countries, without regard to political, social, or economic systems. In this respect we have done our duty in the past and in the future we will also accomplish it. We are ready.

Respected delegates and senators, the National Assembly session concludes today and you will return to your provinces. I know you will face many economic, social, and military problems in your provinces. However, the only matter that makes every one of us and every one of our compatriots anxious is the continuation of war and bloodshed in our country. Now the duty of every Afghan who thinks responsibly about the future of Afghanistan is maintaining peace and security. Today it is not protecting every Afghan. It is therefore my wish that you esteemed delegates and senators remember this vital matter above all else and engage in practical activity to achieve peace.

I appreciate the very valuable measure of the leadership of both houses in assigning special tasks to each delegate for bringing about peace and security in their localities. I will hear their reports in the next session. In our opinion the National Assembly recess should be followed by months of fruitful work for peace in the regions. I hope every delegate and senator in one way or another establishes contact with opposition groups and makes clear to them the fact that no power or organization, and I emphasize, no power or organization, by itself can maintain peace in the country. And no one can obtain victory by continuing war. There are only two options: Either we all struggle for peace in order to live, or all forces shall perish together. I am fully confident that every one of you, with the influence and credibility you enjoy among the people of your own regions, can effectively use the broad possibilities to encourage and invite the people to implement the policy of national reconciliation.

During the past few days I met with delegates and senators from some provinces. They had constructive proposals for improving the military-political situation in their regions. For example, the delegates of the eastern zone pledged to prepare a new (?force) for the Armed Forces to stifle the enemy's subversive activity in that region. I am confident that the delegates and senators of other provinces will also embark on such measures.

In conclusion, I hope that you will convey fruitful information about the recent initiatives of the Republic put forward in this joint session of the National Assembly to the commanders of the armed groups, compatriots far from the country, 'ulema, spiritual leaders, youths, and all compatriots. Please convey my good wishes to the people of your region. I wish you good days from Almighty God. Success comes from God.

Najibullah Receives Parliamentarians

LD2011072388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] This afternoon Esteemed Najibullah received at the headquarters of the presidential office the delegates and senators of Qandahar, Oruzgan, Zabol, and Helmand Provinces.

At this meeting, Esteemed Najibullah shed light on the military and political situation in the country and described the duties and responsibilities of the delegates and senators for the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation.

Mr 'Abdul Ahad Babakarzai, Safar Muhammad Khadam, Shah 'Ali Akbar Shahrestani and Haji Golzar then spoke on behalf of the delegates and senators, and they promised their full preparedness for the restoration of peace and calmness in their respective regions.

BAKHTAR Notes Soviet Command's Statement

LD1911064488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 18, BAKHTAR—The General Command of the USSR Armed Forces in Afghanistan in a statement released here today have strongly denounced the criminal acts committed by Afghan armed groups on Nov. 13 and 16. The statement recalls that on November 13, the Afghan armed group attacked on Kabul airport at a time when a passenger plane of Aeroflot, Soviet airline, was going to take off. As a result of the shooting ten Soviet citizens were killed and eleven wounded.

Similarly, on November 16, a group of journalists belonging to different countries were victims of the attacks by the extremist groups while they were preparing news on the situation in Towr Kham Precinct, Nangarhar Province. As a result of the attack eight journalists were wounded. The fire was opened from the territory of Pakistan.

The Soviet Union, the statement notes, has withdrawn 50 per cent of its forces from Afghanistan from May 15 to August 15 in the wake of honoring the Geneva agreements. The leadership of Afghanistan has also taken a series of steps for the political solution of the situation.

However, the Pakistani authorities and the leaders of Afghan armed groups in Peshawar have intensified their war operations and terroristic activities in different parts of Afghanistan in gross violation of Geneva agreements.

The statement underlined that the Soviet Command has adopted additional measures to prevent the terroristic activities of the armed opposition. If the Afghan armed opposition intensifies its operation the Soviet Command will be obliged to take advantage of its other military means which it has at its disposal for their rebuffal [as received]. In this case, the grave consequences of it will be borne by the opponents, their supporters and the organizers of such terrorist activities.

UN Official on Soviet Withdrawal 'Assurances'

OW1811114988 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—A new pledge of Japanese emergency aid "in cash and in kind" to Afghan refugees is critical at this juncture to help avert human suffering on a massive scale," a visiting United Nations official said here Friday.

"We cannot afford to wait until the refugees move back, we must prepare for their return now," said Sadruddin Agha Khan, coordinator of the U.N. humanitarian and economic assistance programs relating to Afghanistan.

The Agha Khan, appearing before reporters at the Japan National Press Club, said that Japan and other affluent nations must assure that relief and rehabilitation projects are already in place when an estimated 5 million Afghan refugees in neighboring Pakistan and Iran, some 40 percent of the world's refugee population, return to their war-scarred country next spring.

He warned that with 90 percent of Afghan homes destroyed, the food distribution system in disarray, an absence of medical facilities, and land mines and unexploded ordnance scattered at random throughout the countryside, a sudden influx of refugees could exacerbate an already precarious situation.

The U.N. coordinator said that during his meetings Thursday with Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and Friday with Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Japan reconfirmed that it will contribute 60 million dollars it pledged in October to the U.N. high commissioner for refugees and other U.N. agencies, to help Afghan refugees.

Aside from the amount already earmarked, however, Sadruddin Agha Khan said that he was unable to secure a new Japanese pledge toward U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's June 10 appeal for 1.16 billion dollars in aid to the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund. Perez de Cuellar's appeal has thus far generated 795 million dollars worldwide.

Asked if he was satisfied at Japan's present level of financial assistance, Sadruddin Agha Khan diplomatically replied that the nature of his work means he is never satisfied, but added that Japan should not be singled out.

Other countries, including the United States, members of the European Community, and oil-producing states, also have room to contribute more in form of bilateral and multilateral aid, said the former U.N. high commissioner for refugees.

Tha Agha Khan attempted to allay doubt in some quarters that the effects of increased aid would be minimal while the fighting still continues between the mujahidin resistance fighters and the communist government supported by an estimated 50,000 Soviet troops.

"This is an emergency operation," he countered. "We cannot wait and let people suffer and die... They've suffered so much already." He said the U.N. team has been working "in a flexible and pragmatic way," avoiding areas where security has broken down.

The Agha Khan explained that fighting has ceased or subsided in many areas of the mountainous country, especially those held by the mujahidin.

He emphasized the importance of pre-positioning food stocks inside Afghanistan prior to the return of the refugees to avert starvation. "We would never be forgiven for not having planned for this," he warned.

He noted, however, that "food is not something that Japan is so used to providing in large-scale humanitarian operations." He said Japan could contribute more in the provision of funds, equipment and expertise. He said communications is an ideal area for Japan to provide expertise and train human resources.

In the area of medical care, Japan could assist in building and staffing field hospitals, and could provide necessary supplies such as surgical and immunization equipment, the Agha Khan said.

He described the Afghan scene after 10 years of warfare as one in which "there are widows and orphans everywhere" and in which thousands of people have been maimed by land mines.

The Agha Khan, 55, a Paris-born Indian prince, Iranian citizen, and Harvard graduate, who calls himself a "citizen of the world," arrived in Japan Wednesday following a 4-day visit to Moscow where he met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other high-level officials.

He said that in Moscow he received assurances at the foreign ministerial level that the Soviet Union will abide by its commitment to complete its withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan by the February 15 deadline, as stipulated in the U.N.-mediated Geneva accords.

Rebels Claim Soviet-Kabul Forces Use 'Poison Gas'

BK2111084988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0839 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 21 (AFP)—Soviet fighter planes dropped bombs containing gas on several small villages in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar overnight Saturday, sources close to the mujahidin resistance said here.

The Afghan Information and Documentation Centre also said late Sunday that some of the surface-to-surface SS1 Scud missiles fired from Kabul by Soviet-Afghan forces contained "poison gas." The gas, which fell in the Batsawul and Hazar Now areas in the east of Nangarhar Province, caused eye lesions and itching, said the centre, which is close to the mujahidin resistance.

No independent verification of the reports could be obtained late Sunday.

The gas attacks followed violent clashes in the region during which several tanks and petrol tankers were destroyed and dozens of soldiers killed or put out of action, according to mujahidin sources from the moderate fundamentalist Hezb-e Esmali Khalis group.

Fighting was continuing in the east and south-east of the province according to mujahidin from the moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan.

The Afghan Army has flown in dozens of a new type of tank to the provincial capital, Jalalabad, mujahidin sources said.

Pakistani Foreign Affairs Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has protested to the U.N. Security Council about what he said were Afghan violations of Pakistani airspace and acts of sabotage in Pakistani territory which had killed 134 civilians, Pakistan's official news agency said late Sunday.

Pazhwak Meets With Armenian SSR Delegation

LD2011073788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 19, BAKHTAR—Minister without portfolio, Nematullah Pazhwak met today in his office with the high-ranking delegation of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic which is currently here at the invitation of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation (PSFO) of Afghanistan.

According to another report the delegation met during the day with the leadership delegation of the trade unions of Afghanistan as well.

Matters relating to expansion of cooperations between the Armenian SSR with the Republic of Afghanistan were discussed during the meeting.

New Long-Range Rockets Kill 200 'Extremists'

LD1811211888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 17, BAKHTAR—The Armed Forces of Afghanistan inflicted crushing blows to the armed extremists in the past two days.

About 200 armed extremists were killed when the new long-range rockets fired by the Armed Forces of Afghanistan hit an extremist's area in Sarkani District, Konarha Province.

Likewise, owing to a mopping up operation which took place in several districts of the provinces of Paktia, Qandahar, Konduz, and Jowzjan, 146 extremists were killed and a number wounded. A large quantity of their weapons were also confiscated.

The criminal extremists fired four surface-to-surface rockets on Nov. 16, on the residential areas, Precinct 4, of Jalalabad city as a result of which seven persons were killed and four wounded.

According to another report, severe clashes occurred between belligerent extremist groups in the suburbs of provinces of Jowzjan, Konduz, Takhar, Herat and Kabul as a result of which fifty nine persons were killed and seventeen other wounded.

Missile Used in Patan District

LD1911175788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Quoting an Armed Forces spokesman, the military section of the BIA reports that Armed Forces units and companies carried out a series of combat operations in the past 24 hours to restore peace and crush the extremist warmongering elements.

As a result of yesterday's operation by the Armed Forces in order to clear the environs of Towr Kham-Jalalabad highway of warmongers and thieves, 68 extremists were crushed and 12 of them injured. During this operation, two extremists were arrested and two motor vehicles, one mortar, one rocket launcher, and one machinegun were seized by the Armed Forces. Two of the enemy's rocket missile units, one mortar, a weapon, and an ammunition depot were destroyed.

As a result of blows on a nest of extremists by the Armed Forces, 47 extremists were crushed yesterday in the environs of Nangarhar Province and 20 of them injured. During this combat operation, one of the enemy's rocket missile units, one DShK, and two weapons and ammunition depots were destroyed. Eighteen anti-vehicle mines were discovered and exploded.

As a result of an operation carried out yesterday by the Armed Forces in Polpazai [placename as received] and Mola-Akhond [placename as received] regions, attached to Takhteh Pol Subdistrict, Maywand District, and in the environs of Qandahar city, the extremists lost 69 of their men and 21 of them were injured.

During the operation carried out in the Takhteh Pol region 370 mortar mines, 133 recoilless gun shells, 13 boxes of DShK ammunition, 4 boxes of light machinegun ammunition, 15 boxes of hand grenades, 4 surface-to-surface missiles, 2 machineguns and 2 motor vehicles were seized by the Armed Forces.

As a result of a mopping-up operation carried out by the Armed Forces in the environs of Maywand District, Qandahar Province, 2 rocket units, 1 mortar, and 2 motor vehicles loaded with weapons and ammunition were destroyed; 65 rocket missiles were seized.

As a result of a combat operation in the environs of Balkh District, Balkh Province, 12 extremists were crushed and 15 warmongers injured. During this operation one DShK and four of the enemy's were destroyed.

According to another report, 52 extremists, including 1 foreign adviser and 1 of the extremist ringleaders, were killed yesterday by the Armed Forces in the environs of Gardeyz city and in Zarmal and Seyyed Karam Districts of Paktia Province. During this operation, 47 extremists were injured. One of the enemy's artillery, four rocket launchers, and one weapon and ammunition depot were destroyed.

Seven robbers who were attempting to rob people along the highway between Kabul and Jalalabad were crushed yesterday in the region of Tangi-e Abreshim. During this operation, 6 antivehicle and 28 antipersonnel mines were also discovered and defused.

In Eshpoli region attached to Patan District, 77 extremists were crushed and 84 of them injured; 13 Pakistani soldiers and 2 Arab advisers, nicknamed Muhammad Parhiz and Muhammad Habib Shahzaman, were also killed in a fire when a new long-range missile hit a gathering of extremists. Eleven recoilless guns, 20 mortars, and 14 DShK's—belonging to the extremists—were also destroyed.

As a result of air raids and artillery fire on the extremists' positions in the environs of Farah and Paktia Provinces, 152 extremists were killed and several of their hideouts destroyed.

Rebels Say 22 Soldiers Killed in Missile Attack

BK1911103988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1017 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 19 (AFP)—Twenty-two Afghan soldiers killed in a missile attack by mujahidin rebels near lthe eastern city of Jalalabad, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported Saturday.

The agency said the rebels used French-made Milan missiles in the attack Friday in the Marco [placename as received] area of Nangarhar Province, along the highway between Jalalabad and Towr Kham on the Pakistani border.

Four tanks and three military vehicles were destroyed, it added, saying that the rebels had regained ground in the area and that five rebels were wounded in fighting in the area Friday.

The majahidin blocked the road to the border and captured Towr Kham in early November, but recently lost the border post to Afghan forces.

The pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said dozens of Afghan troops were killed Wednesday in guerrillas attacks in Nangarhar, central Parwan and eastern Paktia Provinces.

It said 100 Afghan militiamen had defected to the majahidin in northern Jowzjan Province, near the Soviet border, in early November.

India

Further Reportage on Gorbachev Visit

Banquet Speeches Noted

BK1811163188 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1612 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, hosted a banquet tonight in honor of the visiting Soviet leader. Some details of the banquet speeches have come in.

Mr Venkataraman has said in his speech that both India and the Soviet Union should carry forward the aims of the New Delhi Declaration signed in 1986. He said the two countries share a common vision of creating a nuclear weapons-free world. The president praised the wide-ranging economic and political reforms initiated by Mr Gorbachev and described him as "Shanti Doot," ambassador of peace. Mr Venkataraman expressed the hope that these reforms will usher in a millennium of peace and prosperity in the world.

The Soviet president said in his speech that the relations between his country and India are (?granted) in a similarity and identity of views. They include the meaning and goals to world development. Mr Gorbachev said Indo-Soviet relations are based on unconditional respect for social and political choices. He dismissed as groundless and speculative reports that his country is becoming cool toward India. He said the time-tested friendship between the two countries will not hinder development of relations with third countries. He pointed that despite the differing social and political systems both the countries are striving to end confrontations in the world.

The foreign minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Shevardnadze, also had a meeting this evening. The two leaders reviewed various bilateral and international issues.

Gorbachev Award Ceremony Speech

BK1911090088 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0752 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Speech by Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at the Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi on the occasion of receiving the Indira Gandhi International Prize for Peace and Disarmament—live, in Russian with simultaneous translation in English]

[Text] Esteemed Mr President. Esteemed Mr Prime Minister. Ladies and gentlemen. Comrades.

I thank [Vice President] Mr Sharma, Mr Nyerere, and Mr (Al Hayat), and all the members of the international jury, each of whom has personally contributed to the cause of peace and progress, for their decision to award this prize to me. I thank Mr Venkataraman, Mr Gandhi, and Mr Sharma for their kind words addressed to me. This award and the venue and time of the presentation ceremony have a profound meaning for me. The prize is named for Indira Gandhi. There is no doubt that the legacy of this remarkable woman, an outstanding stateswoman of our century [applause], and a political leader of world caliber belongs above all to Indians.

It was her destiny to follow her great father Jawahar Lal Nehru in leading this vast, ancient, and diverse country along the road of independence and progress toward building a modern nation. [applause] But Indira Gandhi also belongs to all mankind. Her thought and her political action knew no national restrictions. She did not separate the destiny of her country from global progress. Indira Gandhi said that the people are children of the universe. A seemingly simple and self-evident truth: We are all in one boat called the earth. But it still takes lot of efforts to learn to live in harmony with that truth.

For thousands of years progress required sacrifices and was achieved at a high cost. Even today, it is fraught with profound contradictions. Man explores the deepest mysteries of life and nature and at the same time endangers his own existence. Technology works wonders, increasing manifold the effectiveness of man's labor. Dozens of millions of people go unemployed. Efforts to create conditions for a civilized life have brought about a deteriorating environment, the depletion of nonrenewable natural resources, and a drain on intellectual assets. Striking contrasts exist in the distribution of national wealth.

While to some the fruits of progress come in abundance, for others they remain totally out of reach. The list of such paradoxes could go on and on. Many of them pose a universal threat. Therefore, mankind needs a reexamination of the values by which it lives. It has to transform the entire system of economic, political, legal, and cultural relations in the world. Above all, it needs to change its thinking to realize that the world is a single and interdependent whole.

This interdependence should not be seen as burdensome fetters. It holds out a promise of mutual enrichment, of building a community of states and nations in which the simple laws of morality and justice would be as natural as they are in relations between civilized individuals. Indeed, today there must be no gap between politics and morality. In the nuclear age, it can lead to catastrophic consequences.

This is the view of the world by which Mr Rajiv Gandhi and I were guided when adopting the Delhi Declaration. [applause].

And we can now state that its underlying political concept is in harmony with our time, for it is a fact that the train loaded heavily with nuclear deaths and carried along by tremendous inertia has now started to slow down. An international verification machinery has been set up in an area previously regarded as absolutely off limits. It has proved possible to contain the spread of regional tensions.

In world politics, dialogue has acquired a new dimension. It has started to displace concentrational tactics. Not only the public but governments as well are becoming aware of the unifying significance of global problems. There is ample evidence that a new international situation is taking shape which offers a prospect of hope for the 21st century. One of the remarkable features of this situation is the unique role played by the developing countries. The Nonaligned Movement has become an indispensable factor in world politics. [applause].

And here I have to mention the man who created the concept of the movement and was one of its main architects, Jawahar Lal Nehru. [applause].

We in the Soviet Union see the growing multiplicity of alternative ways of the world's development and the ever increasing contribution of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America to the shaping of a new world. Precisely for that reason, freedom of choice is the cornerstone of our new thinking. It is the most cardinal imperative of our time, and I believe that the United Nations has a prominent role to play in interpreting and implementing it. The organization will, of course, improve its structure and methods of operation. But it has already demonstrated that it is capable of performing the mission for which it was established. Of course, it is not easy for positive trends to gain ground. The evidence is nearby.

For instance, the entire world has recognized the positive importance of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, and not only for the parties concerned. This was authoritatively confirmed by the United Nations General Assembly which early this month unanimously adopted a resolution meaningfully entitled "The Situation in Afghanistan and Its Implications for International Peace and Security."

However, it would appear that Pakistan and the United States find it hard to accept these approaches to international affairs. Their actions appear to indicate that they would like to make us rescind those accords, even though the grave consequences of that are obvious. Abandoning confrontational strategies and demilitarizing relations among states would make it possible to put the problem of underdevelopment on a practical track toward solution. The true dimensions of that problem are yet to be fully realized. Meanwhile the danger inherent in it will soon become comparable with the threat of nuclear holocaust or environmental catastrophe.

Soviet people sided with oppressed peoples when they fought against colonialism. Today we stand together with liberated nations as they strive to achieve economic and social revival and a life worthy of the final years of the 20th century.

We hope to move hand in hand with the developing countries toward establishing a global system of political and economic security. To us the North-South and the East-South problems merge into a task for all mankind. We value the fact that on these issues, too, our outlook is similar to India's views.

The plan of action presented by Prime Minister Gandhi to the United Nations last summer is consistent with our long term objectives. [applause]

Specifically, we support the idea of an international convention to outlaw the threat of the use of nuclear weapons.

In our thinking about international security and ways to strengthen it, Asia and the entire Asian-Pacific region naturally take a prominent place. The initiatives made public in Vladivostok and Krasnoyarsk are an invitation jointly to seek ways to improve the situation in the region with the participation of all countries concerned, including, of course, the United States.

We especially count on the understanding and cooperation of India, without whom the problems of the Asian-Pacific region can never be resolved.

This is also true of another great nation, the People's Republic of China.

Thinking of countries like the Soviet Union, India, and China, one is inevitably led to realize that good relations between them are extremely important for the destinies of Asia and for global progress. [applause]

We are pleased to see signs of improvement in Indo-Chinese relations. Our own relations with China are also evolving in an encouraging way. Soviet-Chinese summit meeting is probably not too far away. [applause]

The notion of trust has now become a part of the diplomatic vocabulary. It is remarkable that originally this is a common word used by ordinary people. Another fact of great significance is that trust between our countries did not emerge as an alternative to mistrust. Today we are demonstrating to the entire world how two great nations can work together on the basis of trust for their own benefit and without prejudice to others. The traditions of our relations are fruitful, the opportunities are great and the future is in our hands.

Ladies and gentlemen. The Indira Gandhi Prize carries the motto of "Peace, Disarmament, and Development." This is the road to saving mankind and building a civilized world. Accepting this precious award, I once again feel a strong commitment to these goals. [applause]

Thank you. [loud applause]

I would like to ask the minister for foreign affairs of the USSR, Mr Shevardnadze, to do something which I am asking him to do which, I think, is important. [applause]

Shevardnadze Addresses Ceremony

BK1911093088 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0805 GMT 19 88

[Speech by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at the Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi on the occasion of the presentation of the Indira Gandhi International Prize for Peace and Disarmament to CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev—live, in Russian with simultaneous translation in English]

[Text] Mr President. Mr Prime Minister. Ladies and gentlemen. Comrades. Allow me to say a few words in the context of this moving event which is now taking place in this marvelous auditorium.

First of all, the Soviet delegation, on behalf of our people, would like to cordially congratulate Mikhail Gorbachev on this award of the Indira Gandhi prize [applause] the glorious daughter, the prominent daughter of India, the outstanding political figure of our time. The acts and the activities, the legacy of this unique stateswoman of our time and of our century strike a responsive chord in the hearts of the Soviet people and one could go on and on about this, but you know, hundreds of little girls born in our country are named Indira. This is the best testimony of this. [applause]

Two years ago, before the signing of the now well-known Delhi Declaration, we visited the house of Soviet science and culture here in this great capital of India. This was a remarkable, unforgettable event. Meeting with prominent members of the Indian public, we saw the great interest shown by thousands of young men and women of India in the cultural, the scientific achievements of the people of the Soviet Union: how they studied the Soviet Union, its history, and its present. This is indeed a common house that bring together two great people.

Mikhail Gorbachev has asked me to say that the monetary portion of this prize is being donated to this house, our common house of the Soviet Union and India. [applause] The prize, the Indira Gandhi Prize, will be working to expand our traditional friendship and equitable cooperation and in this, too, is a very important meeting of the presentation ceremony today. [sentence as heard].

And let me also mention another thing. We have no doubt that by our common and united efforts we will be able to organize in Moscow a model center for Indian culture which will represent the rich culture of the Indian people, the achievements of this great nation of yours. [applause]. Thank you for your attention. [applause].

Gandhi Award Ceremony Speech

BK1911102088 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0711 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Speech by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at the Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on the occasion of the presentation of the Indira Gandhi International Prize for Peace and Disarmament to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev—live]

[Text] President Gorbachev. Rashtrapatiji [Mr President]. Uprashtrapatiji [Mr Vice President]. Excellencies. Ladies and gentlemen. Friends. We are honored to have once again in our midst for the second time in 2 years a trusted friend of India, the great leader of a great nation [applause], of a great nation and a friendly people, an outstanding world statesman.

Gathered here today, Mr President, are Indians from all walks of life to salute you for the contribution you have made for peace, disarmament, and development. [applause]

The bold and imaginative lead which you have given has opened for the first time since the invention of nuclear weapons the possibility of sustained peace in the world. For the first time in 4 decades those armed with nuclear weapons are beginning to look for an alternative to the balance of nuclear terror. We have witnessed the dismantling of an entire nuclear weapon system. Ahead lies the prospects of a significant cut in strategic arms. The logical conclusion of the road you have embarked upon is the elimination of nuclear weapons accompanied by general and complete disarmament. Beyond that, we look to a new world order.

Through the Delhi Declaration of 2 years ago, you affirmed your commitment to the path of nonviolence. We are therefore confident of your cooperation in building the new world order on the basis of nonviolence and the principles of peaceful coexistence. [applause] The new world order which we look to would be fashioned of the dreams of Indira Gandhi. She saw all of humanity as one, and all the world as one. [applause] In her immortal words: Our world is small, but has room for all of us to live together in peace and beauty and to improve the quality of the lives of the men and women of all races and creed.

On behalf of the government and the people of India and on my own behalf I extend to you our warmest felicitations on being a most worthy recipient of this year's Indira Gandhi prize [prolonged applause] at this historic moment when the names of Indira Gandhi and Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev are joined together in the name of peace, disarmament, and development. [applause] Our mind goes back to the historic treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation which Indira Gandhi concluded with the Soviet Union in August 1971 at a crucial moment in our history. [applause]

The Soviet Union assisted us in our industrial development at a time when others were attempting to shake our confidence in our capacity to become self-reliant. New forms of trade were devised which have led to the Soviet Union becoming one of our most important trading partner. Innovations in cultural exchanges and scientific cooperation have drawn our people close together. We thank the Soviet Union for having proved a tried and trusted friend. [applause]

As you have done in the Soviet Union, we too in India are responding to changing challenges and evolving circumstances. The minds cannot remain imprisoned in the imperatives of the past. We are firm on principles and consistent in policies but flexible and innovative in responding to new developments. Our commitment is to the eradication of poverty. That goal we are pursuing with single-minded (?purposefulness).

For more than 3 decades, India and the Soviet Union have enjoyed a close relationship. Today, we can justly claim that much of the new thinking about disarmament and the new world order derives from the relationship between India and the Soviet Union. We have been an example for all the world of peaceful coexistence at its best, of two different socioeconomic systems working in close cooperation on the basis of equality, mutual understanding and mutual trust.

Indo-Soviet friendship has benefited millions and harms none. It is a relationship built by the people of the two countries over decades. It is a demonstration of what can be achieved through goodwill, mutual respect, and mutual trust.

The Delhi Declaration has placed our bilateral relationship in a larger global context. It signals the joint endeavors of our two countries to work together and with others toward world peace and world cooperation. Its historic significance lies in the message it gives to the world of our vision, of the world we seek.

We appreciate the constructive role being played by the Soviet Union under the dynamic leadership of President Gorbachev [applause] for the defusion of confrontation, tension, and conflicts around the world. The world needs a comprehensive system of global security which enables all to live in peace, equality, and mutual respect. We look forward to working with the Soviet Union and the international community in general in devising a new system. The task before us extends well beyond economic development, peace, and security. The advance of science and technology has placed in our grasp the possibility of material growth for all, abolishing the specter of poverty, opening the doors of opportunity for all.

But science and technology cannot give us the values required to ensure for our people a fulfilling life as individuals or a fulfilling role for ourselves as a nation. It is when science fuses with spirituality that fulfillment arises. Mere material prosperity will give no satisfaction if it is divorced from the basic values which have sustained our civilization over thousands of years. Equally, spirituality alone to the detriment of a search for solutions to poverty would be tantamount to cruelty and neglect.

President Gorbachev and his people can reach back into their history to search out the basic truth which has resulted in the evolution of the great nations and the great cultures that the Soviet Union represents. We for our part can also reach back into our traditions as the representatives of the only civilization in the world to combine both antiquity and continuity with the celebration of diversity. It is from these enduring (?recesses) of our national memory that we will retrieve the fundamental values which will take forward our respective civilizations, indeed the civilization of the world. The values which I talked of are truth and nonviolence, tolerance and compassion, and appreciation of the unity of the human family, a recognition of the oneness of the world we share.

The new world order we seek will be differentiated from the present one less by the indices of prosperity and strength than by its being anchored in the mental attitudes and value systems which alone can assure sustained peace and sustainable development.

Mr President, the world reposes great hope in you. You have shown within your country how dynamic change can be linked to fidelity to (?first) principles. Glasnost and perestroika have entered the vocabulary of all nations. [applause] In taking your country out of obsolete grooves you have taken the world itself out of conventional ruts of thought. Rarely has it been given to one man to foster so much new thinking, so many new ideas so fresh and innovative in approach to human affairs. The worldwide revolution in thinking which you have provoked also places upon your shoulders a heavy responsibility.

Each element of the new world order we seek is as important as the other. The elements together constitute an integral whole. They must be put together comprehensively. Partial solutions might make international relations even more difficult and dangerous than they are at present. Hence, the responsibility which devolves on you of carrying forward to its logical conclusion the processes which you have started. [applause]

We need a world which respects the sovereign democratic equality of all nations, however large or small, whatever their differences might be in military or economic strength. What the world needs is a recognition of interdependence where depravation in any one segment is seen as a loss to all and where prosperity is shared, because the sharing of prosperity increases prosperity all around.

We need a world which totally abjures the twin evils of racism and colonialism. We need a world where the environment is conserved, the ecological balance is protected, and pollution forestalled or quickly rectified. We need cooperation and coexistence. We need an end to deterrence with the death and destruction which deterrence (?does).

India and the Soviet Union have worked together to show the world this way. We look forward to continuing our march as companions in a common journey, as friends of old standing treasuring their friendship. It is sometimes argued that the dissolution of bloc politics, which you, Mr President, have put on the agenda of the international community, has rendered nonalignment obsolete. On the contrary, nonalignment has rarely been more relevent than it is at this juncture [applause], because as the world begins to see things our way, we must remain on hand to participate in the reordering of the world order so that the new order accords with our principles, our policies and our priorities.

If you will permit me a moment of personal sentiments, I feel the presence of my mother Indira Gandhi looking over us now. [applause] From the letters which my grandfather Jawahar Lal Nehru wrote to her from prison, she learned of the Great October Revolution and the profound changes that the revolution had ushered in, not only in your country, but the world over. She accompanied her father to the Soviet Union on his historic journey there in 1955 as prime minister of free India. As prime minister herself she nurtured with loving care the tender plant of India-Soviet friendship. [applause] That plant has now been handed over to our care.

You, Mr President, came to be the chosen leader of the Soviet Union at just about the same time as I was elected prime minister. [applause] Together we have carried forward the great tradition of our mutual friendship. Never more intensively than in the last 3 years have high-level exchanges between our countries reached the pitch attained in recent times. Never before has there been such diversity and such a wide range in contacts between our two countries. Never before have the Soviet people witnessed such a broad spectrum of the culture of India.

Never before have the people of India seen so much of your ways of life. You and I can affirm with pride that we have been true to our forebears who made friendship between India and the Soviet Union a vital element in the national life of each country and the vital component of international relations. Likewise, our friendship has continued to provide a new and hopeful dimension to world peace and global cooperation.

In honoring you, we honor also the memory of India Gandhi, a great architect of our friendship, a statesperson without fear, whose contribution to peace, disarmament, and development is first of the contemporary history of human kind. [applause] We welcome you to India and thank you for accepting this token of our appreciation.

Visits Mahatma, Nehru Memorials

BK1911110888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Mr Mikhail Gorbachev visited Rajghat and laid a wreath to pay his homage to Mahatma Gandhi. Mr Gorbachev inspected a sapling he planted at the samadhi [memorial] during his visit in 1986.

Later, Mr Gorbachev visited Shantivana and Saktisthal and made floral offerings at the samadhis of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

Addresses Festival Conclusion

BK1911140088 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 1229 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Speech by Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi at a ceremony marking the conclusion of the Soviet festival in India—live, in Russian with passage by passage translation into English]

[Text] Distinguished Mr President. Distinguished Mr Prime Minister. Distinguished Mrs Venkataraman. Distinguished Mrs Gandhi. Dear Indian friends. Comrades. I cordially thank you for the invitation to participate in this solemn ceremony. This ceremony (?spans) an event that can be described as unprecedented in the lives of our peoples. The Festival of India has traversed the entire Soviet Union, from the Baltic republics to the far east, reaching out to 150 cities. In India, the Soviet festival has come as a welcome event to over 100 cities.

Art expresses the soul of a nation as probably nothing else does, and the soul of a people, like the soul of every human being, has an identity and uniqueness to it. Sometimes, a verse, a dance, a painting can give a broader inside view not only to the customs and everyday life, but also to how people view the world, what they consider good or evil, what they perceive as the meaning of life. Becoming knowledgeable about other people's culture teaches the mastery of living in this multifaceted world without which the world will never be able to survive in the nuclear age. Contacts and interaction between such two great civilizations have, of course, intrinsic value.

However, as [Indian poet] Rabindranath Tagore quoted: This world is the world of wild storms tamed by the music of beauty. The aspiration for beauty, harmony, and justice lies at the heart of universal values. Their preeminence in politics was proclaimed by the Soviet and Indian leadership in the Delhi Declaration. This unique event in the cultural life of our countries has also evolved into a major political factor. This is an instructive example of people's diplomacy. The festivals have revealed the simple truth of importance to everyone that extensive contacts between people from different countries strengthen the notion of the human family's unity and the feelings of interdependence which is a reliable compass to be guided by in the still quite intricate labyrinths of the current integral and interlinked world.

Trust, mutual understanding, and a readiness to cooperate on the basis of respect for everyone's sovereign choice of a way of life helps to build the comprehensive political security and thereby save our beautiful planet from self-annihilation.

It is in this broad context that we note the festivals that been going on. They have done a great service to the friendship between India and the Soviet Union. It is indicative that the festivals were associated with two foremost (?events) of the 20th century: the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution and the 40th anniversary of India's independence.

It is symbolic that monuments to Vladimir Ilych Lenin in New Delhi and to Mahatma Gandhi and Indira Gandhi in Moscow were built within this time [during the festivals]. [applause]

It is of particular significance also that the baton of the festivals is passed on to the yearlong celebrations of the centenary of the great son of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru. [applause] The commemorative year was solemnly launched a week ago. We shall be participating together with you in commemorating Nehru.

Dear friends. A powerful whirlwind of change has swept the land of the Soviets. A revolutionary search for a new quality in socialism is underway. Millions of people have vigorously begun to restructure their social and state edifice. There are many problems, big and new. Our people have a multitude of serious ideas and suggestions on ways to resolve them. We are confident of success because we have great values in our revolution—power of the working people, socialist ownership, internationalism, and the party too that pursues the program endorsed by the people and the policy of revolutionary transformations.

We are cleansing our society from everything that is alien to the Leninist ideals and humanistic nature of socialism and at the same time we are (?breathing) new life into the future.

I am conveying to you and through you to hundreds of millions of Indians friendly greetings from the peoples of the Soviet Union. [applause]

They are sending you wishes of peace, tranquillity, progress, and success in strengthening the unity of the country and the inviolability of its frontiers.

The festivals are drawing to a close. The farewell fireworks will soon thunder away and the festive lights will dim. But this celebration of friendship between the two great peoples will be cherished in our memories as a symbol of our friendship and an impetus for joint movement for the better world. [applause] Thank you. [applause]

Holds Talks With Gandhi

BK1911161088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have underlined the need to prepare a joint plan of action after the year 2000 and beyond to give a big boost to trade and economic cooperation between them. The Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, at their deliberations in New Delhi today felt that there is need for close interaction and intensive dialogue for economic cooperation. This is because the Soviet Union is working on its 13th 5-Year Plan and India on its 8th plan. Both agreed that the targets set should be forward-looking and take into account the enormous potential of the two countries.

Full delegations of India and the Soviet Union met in the plenary session for over an hour. This was followed by a one-to-one meeting between Mr Gorbachev and Mr Gandhi which also lasted for 60 minutes. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi this evening, an official spokesman said certain specific areas of cooperation were also discussed. These included thermal and hydroelectric projects in India to generate a potential of 6,000 megawatts of power over the next 15 years and also a plan for hotel construction in the Soviet Union with Indian participation over the same period.

Other areas of economic cooperation discussed included railway, fishing, and civil aviation. A draft agreement on space research was also considered. It was agreed that before the next meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission in March next year, problems coming in the way of increasing bilateral trade should be resolved. The problems are tax, time-consuming processes for visa and travel, and some other technical difficulties.

He [as heard] asserted that Indo-Soviet cooperation is needed by the world community. The Soviet leader pointed out that he felt it necessary to make a public declaration at the official banquet yesterday about certain unfounded speculations regarding the state of Indo-Soviet relations. During the talks, the two sides expressed the desire to follow up on the festivals and pursue vigorously exchanges in the fields of science and technology and popular publications. There was also a common desire to promote the ideas of the Delhi Declaration. Mr Gorbachev agreed to a suggestion by Mr Gandhi that scholars should be exchanged between India and the Soviet Union through a joint foundation which could be named the Nehru Foundation to commemorate his centenary year.

The two leaders reiterated their commitment to promote Indo-Soviet friendship and cooperation. Mr Gorbachev welcomed suggestions made by Mr Gandhi in cultural and other fields and promised to translate them into action. He also reciprocated wholeheartedly Mr Gandhi's views on the Delhi Declaration and called it historic for our times as well as for future generations. At the outset, Mr Gandhi welcomed Mr Gorbachev and said the Soviet president has brought about revolutionary changes in the Soviet Union and the world.

Mr Gandhi described Mr Gorbachev as an outstanding statesman, a friend of India, as well as a personal friend. His visit is symbolic of this friendship, substantial and very timely, Mr Gandhi added. Mr Gandhi and Mr

Gorbachev will have the final round of talks tomorrow which will be followed by the signing of various documents. Mr Gorbachev is to leave for Moscow in the afternoon.

PRC, Pakistan Ties Discussed

BK2011163688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] The wide-ranging discussions between the Soviet president, Mr Gorbachev, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, continued in New Delhi this morning for about 80 minutes.

The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and the minister of state, Mr Natwar Singh also met their counterparts Mr Shevardnadze and Mr Rogachev.

Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said the two sides explored several avenues for raising bilateral relations to higher qualitative levels.

Mr Gandhi and Mr Gorbachev discussed, among other issues, Sino-Indian and Sino-Soviet relations. The forthcoming visit of Mr Gandhi to China and also the possibility of Sino-Soviet summit early next year figured at their talks.

The recent developments regarding the democratic process in Pakistan and the post-election scene there were discussed.

On the bilateral side, emphasis was laid on ways and means of attracting the private sector in India and including it to play a large role in improving trade and economic relations with the Soviet Union. Another idea welcomed by the two sides related to allowing Indian companies, both in private and public sectors, to enter into direct contact with enterprises in the Soviet Union.

The spokesman pointed out that overall the visit of Mr Gorbachev has given a new impetus and impulse to Indo-Soviet relations. The large number of agreements signed are eloquent testimony of the fruitful and productive nature of this visit.

Expresses 'Satisfaction'

BK2011085588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Both Indian and Soviet leaders have expressed satisfaction over the outcome of President Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to India. Expressing similar sentiments immediately before the ceremonial farewell for the Soviet leader, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev told newsmen that political and economic relationships between the two countries have been strengthened.

Mr Gorbachev said the important visit not only renewed the Indo-Soviet commitment to the Delhi Declaration but also found new ways of cooperation aiming at global security.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the visit has tremendously improved the existing good relations at all levels.

Replying to a question, he negated the views that political understanding between India and the USSR is on the wane.

Asked on his talks with the visiting dignitary on the Sino-Indian relations, he said the Soviet president supported India in many areas.

Later, the Soviet president was given a warm send-off by the president, the prime minister, several union ministers, diplomats, and senior officials. Mr Gorbachev was given a 21-gun salute and he inspected an interservices guard of honor. He shook hands with the Indian leaders and bade farewell.

Describes Talks as 'Useful'

BK2111032488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The Soviet president, Mr Gorbachev, has expressed satisfaction over his visit to India and said the two countries have set new goals for increasing bilateral cooperation. Speaking on his arrival in Moscow after his 3-day visit to New Delhi, Mr Gorbachev described his talks with the Indian leaders as useful.

4 Agreements, Protocol Signed

BK2011085888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed four major agreements and a protocol. One of the agreements is on cooperation in the construction of a nuclear power station in India. Another deals with long-term cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

The other two agreements are on a 400 million ruble credit for the second stage of the Vindhyachal super thermal power project and on the avoidance of double taxation of income. The Soviet credit for the Vindhyachal project, which is equal to 720 crore rupees, has been extended on a government-to-government basis with a 20 years' repayment period.

Under the agreement on avoidance of double taxation of income, business profits of a resident of one country will be taxable in the other only if it maintains a permanent establishment like a branch, office, factory, or place of management.

Joint Statement on Visit Signed
BK2011090488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have called for demilitarization and democratization of international relations and said there should be no military bases and facilities outside national borders. They asserted that international relations should also be based on humanism.

In an Indo-Soviet statement signed by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev and Mr Rajiv Gandhi at the end of the 3-day visit of the Soviet president, both sides agreed that disarmament, and especially nuclear disarmament, is today the primary issue that concerns all nations and peoples.

The statement noted with deep satisfaction that the principles of new political thinking embodied in the Delhi Declaration have generated wide response throughout the world. It said the declaration contains the basic tenets of the philosophy of survival and progress in the nuclear and space age. It reflects the common perceptions of the two countries on global issues and their common vision for the future of mankind.

The statement said developments over the last 2 years have shown that given political will, a new concept of a safer and a more just world can acquire universal acceptance. It said India and the Soviet Union feel that all nuclear weapon states should join the nuclear disarmament process. They reiterated their support for the Geneva accords on Afghanistan and called for strict implementation by all parties concerned.

They expressed concern over the situation in West Asia aggravated by the escalation of arms race in the region. They expressed satisfaction at the UN sponsored cease-fire between Iraq and Iran and hoped that it would lead to the establishment of a just and lasting peace between the two countries.

The statement strongly condemns racialism. It reaffirms unwavering support for the struggle of the people of South Africa.

Afghan Youths Arrested for Anti-Moscow Protest
BK2011050488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0443 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Nov 20 (AFP)—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was expected to discuss China and Afghanistan in official talks with Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi here Sunday [20 November], Indian officials said. The two topics would most probably be raised during the third and last meeting between Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Gandhi at the presidential palace, winding up a three-day visit here by the Soviet leader, a senior External Affairs Ministry official said. [passage omitted]

In a related development, some 30 Afghan youths living here were arrested Saturday when they tried to hold a protest meeting near an office-cum-shopping complex, newspapers said.

An Afghan refugee spokesman claimed that police cane-charged the demonstrators before arresting them, but police officials denied the charge.

The Afghans managed to throw some leaflets condemning Moscow's policy on Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Sees Better Ties With Pakistan
BK2011160688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The Pakistan People's Party today stormed to power in Sind, while the Islamic Democratic Alliance emerged as the single largest group in Punjab and also was ahead of others in the North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan. [passage omitted]

India has expressed happiness that the electoral process is proceeding smoothly in that country. Answering questions, an official spokesman said that India is looking forward to working with a popularly elected government in Pakistan and for speedy and complete normalization of Indo-Pak relations.

Siachen Talks With Pakistan Set for Jan, Feb
BK2111093588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The next round of India-Pakistan talks at secretaries-level on Siachen issue would be held in Islamabad in January or February next. At the fourth round of discussions held in New Delhi in September, India and Pakistan had reiterated their commitment to work for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the issue in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

This information was given in a written reply by the minister of state for defense production, Mr Chintamani Panigraphi, in the Lok Sabha today.

Delegation Leaves for PRC To Plan Gandhi Trip
BK2111030488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] An Indian delegation led by the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, has left for Beijing to finalize the preparations for the prime minister's forthcoming visit to China. The information and broadcasting secretary, Mr Gopi Arora, and the joint secretaries, Mr Ronen Sen and Mr Nambiar, are its members.

Iran

Khomeyni Receives Letter from Carter on Hostages
LD1911111888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 88

["Text" of letter by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to Ayatollah Khomeyni]

[Text] 30 October, 1988

Ayatollah Khomeyni,

My hope is that the U.S. hostages in Lebanon may be released as soon as possible. Such a measure would remove a fundamental barrier to the resumption of friendly relations between Iran and the United States, which is of vital importance to both countries. To prevent this humanitarian act from appearing political in our country and to prevent a delay in the release of the hostages, an as-neutral-as-possible U.S. channel should be used. We, of the Carter center, wish to be of help in any way possible. In its activities, our center is nonpartisan.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed] Jimmy Carter

Postscript: As a matter of personal interest, I request that you help in the release from prison of a U.S. citizen by the name of (David Redham), who has been imprisoned in Iran for more than 8 years.

[Signed] Jimmy Carter

Khomeyni's Son Delivers Answer
LD1911114388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Following the receipt of a letter by the office of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni addressed to him purporting to be from Jimmy Carter, the imam of the ummah said: To prevent any misinterpretation [su'e estefadeh], the text of that letter should be brought to the notice of the people.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni issued a statement regarding this matter, the text of which is as follows:

In His Exalted Name. Hereby the public are informed that today a letter was received addressed to His holiness the imam, may his shadow long continue, purporting to be from Mr Carter, the former U.S. President. Our experts have confirmed the writing to be that of Jimmy Carter. His holiness the imam has decreed that to prevent any misinterpretation this letter should be brought to the notice of the public. The tone of the letter suggest that Iran is willing to establish relations with the United States but that U.S. hostages in Lebanon are an obstacle in the path of realizing this goal. While denying any Iranian connection with the issue of hostagetaking, his holiness the imam graciously said: As I have repeatedly said, the relations between Iran and the United States is that between a wolf and a sheep and there can be no reconciliation between the two.

[Signed] Ahmad Khomeyni

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments
LD1911175188 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Deputy Commander in Chief Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived at noon today in Yasuj to meet the people of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmadi Province. He was welcomed by the imam's representative and the Friday imam of Yasuj, the governor general and other local officials.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, what is Iran's position concerning the recent Palestinian developments?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We cannot accept anything which recognizes Israel. Israel is basically illegitimate. It was created by others through pressure and massacre and with the help of Western and in general, some Eastern arrogance. The people of Palestine are now homeless in various parts of the world. How can we accord recognition to the existence of Israel in the region? This is totally unacceptable in our opinion.

However, regardless of the manner, the forming of a Palestinian government is a correct step. We agree with this, whether it is in exile, or in any other form. It is the right of the Palestinian people to choose their government, whatever kind of government they want. We oppose, however, any government formed under any circumstances which recognizes Israel.

[Correspondent] What do you think of Carter's recent letter to the imam?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I received a similar letter from him. It was nearly identical contents, as has been announced. It is a sort of request for assistance, but conveyed in an arrogant tone which a haughty person would use. For example, the Lebanese issues are a hindrance to cordial relations between Iran and the United States. Therefore, it seems that he believes Iran is seeking ties, and he is trying to remove the obstacles, while actually quite the opposite situation exists.

It is the Americans who are begging now. They keep sending messages saying: We want to resolve our differences with you. They send a message saying that a certain person wishes to talk to you. Naturally, the policy of the

Islamic Republic is as the imam has declared: Until America comes to its senses we cannot establish ties. This sort of talk makes matters worse.

If they were sincere why did they freeze our assets? A few days ago, the U.S. President extended the freeze on Iran's assets which have been frozen since the beginning of the revolution. They are unconcerned by what the world thinks of all this. By what right can they freeze the assets of a nation? They say: You are supporting the Muslims in Lebanon. Well, do we not also have hostages in Lebanon? Are not our hostages in the hands of the Phalangists? And do not the Americans support the Phalangists? If we have influence over the Muslims, then the United States has influence over the Phalangists. And their influence must be even greater as they are giving them military support.

It is clear that they are still pursuing their arrogant ways. So long as such attitudes exist, they cannot approach Iran.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Letter Called 'New Trick'

LD2011122488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 20 Nov 88

["Political commentary"]

[Text] Today's first political commentary is about Carter's letter to his holiness the imam.

Following the divulgence of the text of the letter by Carter, the former U.S. President, addressed to the imam, last night Jimmy Carter confirmed the sending of that letter. He claimed that his letter was a response to an initiative by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Without providing any explanation concerning this claim, he stated that his aim had been the release of U.S. hostages. In his statement, Carter also stressed that he did not take that step on behalf of U.S. parties; but that according to him, his aim was merely to bring about the release of his personal friend who is imprisoned in Iran; and that he also wished to make use of Iran's influence among Lebanese groups.

In his statement Carter did not refer to the writing of a similar letter to the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majlis]. However, on the whole, he has tried to clearly stress that his action has been a kind of a reciprocal move. It was expected that in case Carter acknowledged he had written the letter, he would in some way deny that he had taken the initiative and that he would try to portray it as a reciprocal and reactive move. This point was clearly seen in Carter's statement issued last night. He claimed that his letter was a response to an initiative by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the other hand, as again was expected, Carter stressed and emphasized that his letter was an independent move, that it was not written on behalf of U.S. parties or the U.S. Government. Perhaps the clearest reason for this emphatic denial is that the U.S. Government does not wish to suffer another disgrace like the McFarlane incident.

On the one hand, Washington is trying to open the door of discussion and communication with Iran. However, at the same time, Washington is not prepared to provide the necessary grounds for this desire by changing her hostile policies against the Islamic revolution. On the other hand, Washington has always made it appear that it is Iran that wishes to establish relations; but that Washington's government has certain conditions which must be satisfied. For instance, the U.S. hostages in Lebanon should be released. However, this is despite the fact that the issue of the U.S. hostages is the direct consequence of U.S. policies in Lebanon, and there is absolutely no connection between that issue and Islamic Republic.

Of course, during the past few years, the West and the U.S. Government, to cover up their hostile policies towards Muslim nations of the region, have in some way attributed their difficulties to Iran, so that it may also provide a pretext for their hostile actions against the Islamic revolution.

Meanwhile, one of the reasons which has always led the U.S. Government to connect the issue of hostagetaking to Iran is that some of the Lebanese groups who are allegedly holding those hostages follow Islamic ideologies. However, the more important point is that the Americans do not wish to directly confront those groups and, by resorting to propaganda about terrorism, they try to deal with governments, including Iran, and to pretend that their difficulties are due to the efforts of those governments.

Carter's letter was, in fact, a sly move by the United States so that Iran's positive response would be interpreted as Iran's involvement in hostagetaking; and that it would provide a seal of approval for the hostile U.S. propaganda during the past few years.

On the other hand, that letter shows that to establish relations with the Islamic Republic, Washington is trying different methods. This time, contrary to the previous method which led to the famous McFarlane fiasco, the U.S. Government has chosen a less risky way, because McFarlane's fiasco brought the U.S. Government major difficulties and had a negative effect on its relations with the region's countries, as well as the position of the American country inside America.

In any case, this new trick by the U.S. Government, and only a few days after the freezing of Iranian assets in the United States shows that the United States will never give up its hostility toward the Muslim Iranian people; and, as his holiness the imam has said, the relations between Iran and America are like those between a wolf and a sheep. The two can never be reconciled.

Musavi Addresses Cabinet

LD2011133888 Tehran IRNA in English
1310 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today said neither the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni nor the Iranian people will forget the crimes committed by the U.S. and other big powers against Muslims in Iran and other parts of the world.

"How can we forget the U.S. Navy attacks on Iranian cargo ship "Iran Ajr" and our oil platforms in the Persian Gulf or the downing of Iran Air Flight 655 with 290 passengers and crew aboard?"

The premier addressing the cabinet, was referring to a letter, sent by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to Imam Khomeyni requesting help for the release of America hostages in Lebanon. The letter was publicized yesterday by the imam's son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

"We should ask Carter whether American human rights is different from the Iranian one and why your so-called civilized government has not only frozen our assets but have also gobbled up billions of dollars illegally transferred to America by the deposed Pahlavi family?"

In his reply to Carter's message, Imam Khomeyni pointed out that there could be "no reconciliation between Iran and the U.S. whose relationship is like that of wolf and sheep."

As far as resumption of Tehran-Washington relations are concerned, Imam Khomeyni has always stressed the "satanic and world-devouring' nature" of the U.S., Musavi said.

Press on Carter's Letter

LD2011121688 Tehran IRNA in English
1145 Gmt 20 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution in his reply to a letter by former US President Jimmy Carter has left no doubt that there would be no change in Iran's policy towards the United States, the Persian daily, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said.

But the English daily TEHRAN TIMES said releasing Iran's assets could possibly encourage Tehran to mediate for the release of American hostages in Lebanon. However it said Washington's open hostility towards Iran was not helping matters.

Imam Khomeyni's reaction to Carter's plea on the hostages "has left no room for ambiguity so far as our policy towards America is concerned... it proved to all that the neither east nor west policy cannot be revised," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in its editorial.

"The world may be witnessing some adjustments in the methods of implementing our foreign policy but everyone must be assured that this does not amount to a change in our foreign policy principles," it added.

In his message, Carter said the hostage issue had become a major obstacle in the way of resumption of ties. The imam, replying through his son Ahmad, denied any link between Iran and hostagetaking and reiterated that there could be no reconciliation with Washington.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said after Iran's acceptance of UN Resolution 598 the United States may have come to the conclusion that Tehran had "also shown a green light" to Washington.

The TEHRAN TIMES on the other hand said "any serious, positive, non-hostile move on the part of the United States... may still under special circumstances convince Iran to use its ideological pull and moral weight to settle the hostagetaking issue once and for all." It said "a positive U.S. stance" in releasing frozen Iranian assets, estimated at over dlrs 10 billion for instance "will inevitably be conducive to circumstances under which Iran may choose to mediate in the hostage crisis."

But the paper said in view of continuing hold on assets, the U.S. veto of an embargo against Baghdad for using poison gas, and the anti-Iran campaign by some congressmen, how could "anyone in his right mind expect Iran to help free American hostages in Lebanon...?"

Khomeyni Receives Martyrs' Relatives, Karrubi

LD2011171988 Tehran IRNA in English
1712 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov 20 IRNA—Imam Khomeyni today granted audience to a group of kin of martyrs, disabled and POW's from various cities.

Addressing the gathering head of Martyr Foundation Mahdi Karrubi said Palestine should be liberated by Muslim Palestinians. The Hojjat ol-Eslam condemned PNC's sellout of the Palestinian cause at Algiers last Tuesday.

Towards the end of the meeting, the leader of the Islamic revolution responded to the enthusiasm of visitors.

Karrubi Condemns Declaration

LD2011113788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Families of martyrs, those missing-in-action, POW's, and disabled people from Mashhad, Aligudarz, and Mianeh, accompanied by officials of Miyaneh's Martyr Foundation and that town's Majlis deputy, were received by Imam Khomeyni this morning.

In the meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the imam's representative and the head of the Islamic Revolution Martyr's Foundation, in the course of remarks referred to the struggles of the Muslim and heroic Palestinian nation and said: The sacred land of Palestine must be liberated through armed struggle and through the battles of the Muslim people of Palestine.

In continuation, Mr Karrubi condemned the PNC's compromising action. He concluded with a reference to the selflessness of the families of martyrs, those missing-in-action, POW's, and disabled ones and conveyed to them his eminence the imam's congratulations, condolences, praise, and gratitude.

At the end of the meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the sentiments of those present.

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1811182488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Second Friday prayers sermons delivered by Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Tehran University on 18 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] The second sermon touches on several issues. I will refer to them briefly. First, i will talk about an issue that was discussed in a relatively positive manner in last Friday's prayer sermons. I think it is necessary to refer to it again, if only in passing. It is the return to the rule of law and respect for the law.

During the imposed war, we felt that acting against the law, overlooking it, and not paying attention to it put us at a terrible disadvantage. At times, however, difficult circumstances or necessities compelled us to find a way, to make a bridge, a path, a middle road for attaining the goal so that it could be achieved as quickly as possible without incurring a greater loss, in order to confront the problem and be free of the crisis.

In accordance with God's wisdom, the time of the war passed and you bore all its hardships and difficulties willingly; you endured them. That time yielded good results and had some difficult aspects. Well, the good points and bad points have passed. Now it is no longer appropriate to pursue that path. When Socrates was condemned in prison to drink that poison, his students said to him: We are ready to rescue you. Do not drink the poison; do not die. It would be a waste for a person such as Socrates—a scholar, a person of unparalleled wisdom—to die pointlessly.

They suggested solutions to him, but Socrates said: Those solutions are against the law. They said: It is a bad law; it is unjust. He said: Yes, I also think that it is an unjust law, but you must strive to change the unjust law to a just one. However, while the unjust law exists, that law is better than none. If there is no law, there is nothing.

We now feel, with all our being, the difficulties of disregarding the law. I myself believe that if, God willing, and in accordance with His wisdom and blessing, we return—either gradually or all at once—to a situation in which all things are in their place, a large percentage of our problems—I cannot say whether that would be 30, 40, 50 percent or more or less; I cannot determine the percentage, but a large percentage—will be solved on that basis. There is no need to seek external or internal factors; there is no need for anything else. The problem will be solved.

The second issue I wanted to refer to—let me not forget it—is that tomorrow is the blessed anniversary of the birth of His Holiness Askari, may God's peace be upon him. [passage omitted]

I have made some references in Friday prayer sermons to those who have left Iran. This has resulted in many letters arriving from abroad. The letters have had different tones, but one theme is in all of them: Some of those who have written are ready to return to Iran and present themselves to the courts to be dealt with in accordance with Iran's legal criteria with regard to finances, ideology, or whatever. The problem is that they are afraid that when they enter Iran, they will run into trouble before they have a chance to present themselves to the courts. Do you have a solution for this problem? They themselves have suggested that I should make a public announcement because some of them have not given their addresses.

Yes, I announce to all these ladies and gentleman: If they want to come to Iran and present themselves to the courts, they should inform us beforehand. They should identify themselves and say: We want to come back. Then we will inform the airport, the police, and the security organizations that a certain person is coming and should not be troubled before he presents himself to the court. Let those people know. Let them be certain. There has been propaganda against Iran. Things have been said against Iran. I do not want to repeat them now.

They are lies, for the most part; they are without foundation. If they want to come..., [incomplete sentence as heard] Those things are said by Iran's enemies, the enemies of the revolution. A person who comes from abroad, who comes openly, who announces it, who presents himself to the judiciary to be exonerated and who defends himself, if such a person wants to come let him. There is no problem or obstacle. I declare that they may come.

Some have written: We are completely blameless; we were afraid and we fled. Should I write a prayer against fear, or something? What do you expect us to do? You are without blame, financial, political, or otherwise. But you just sit there and are afraid. May God give all of us courage, for that is out of my hands.

The third issue is a topical one: The struggles taking place in Lebanon, Palestine, and Afghanistan. The world superpowers have a policy they think successful. First, they create a disturbance, chaos, pressure, or trouble in those places where they think centers and cells of resistance have been established. They have a great deal of patience; they are in no hurry. In 1, 2, 3, or 10 years, when they are convinced the fruit is ripe, then it is time for the fruit to be picked, they pick and destroy it. Look, in Afghanistan now there is talk of the foreign army withdrawing and of a government being established there. They think that now is the time.

The same is true of Palestine. They think they can now whitewash the problem there in some way: Give a piece to the Palestinians and place a number of their own friends there. They hope to reap their reward eventually, to do what they already had planned. As for Lebanon, it has not yet reached that point. The superpowers are not sure whether or not the fruit is ripe. They try to touch it to see whether it is ripe or whether they should continue their efforts.

I really do not know why they cannot understand that the time has passed that the superpowers could sit down to decide the fate of other nations without giving the peoples of those countries any say in determining their own future. Obviously, there was time when such things could be done, but that time now has passed. [passage omitted]

if they intend to set up a state in Palestime, they must allow the people a say. They cannot say that a so-called national council will be set up to substitute for the people; they cannot tell that council to do what is dictated to it. It may truly work for a short while, but the sources of infection remains. Indeed, the source of the infection is the very existence of the superpowers, which deprive the peoples of their rights. [passage omitted]

The regime of the Islamic Republic believes in a number of principles incorporated in our constitution. Our regime is based on righteousness. Anywhere organizations for the liberation of nations rise up to break the chains of bondage, they must have the regime of the Islamic Republic on their side in some way, be it material, moral, political, spiritual, or intellectual.

We openly declare that the regime of the Islamic Republic will support without reservation all the deprived and victimized nations the rights of which have been usurped, and that the Islamic Republic condemns all the conspiracies designed by the superpowers against the just rights of other nations.

My final remarks concern the latest letter by his highness the imam; all of you have read or heard it. [passage omitted] In order to refresh your memories, I will list once again those issues his highness the imam has pointed out as the key ones. These are important points which the imam wants us to debate, to write about, to discuss, and on which he wants us to exchange views. If we differ, we must do so on a scientific basis. Criticism must be constructive.

The imam has referred to these important points: ownership and its limitations; the ownership and distribution of land; public resources [anfal], money, banking, and taxation; domestic and foreign trade; capital participation [mozarebeh, mozare'e]; rents, and mortgages, retribution and civil laws; cultural problems—painting, sculpture, cinema, music, theater, and the environment; family planning and birth control when necessary; the solution of difficult problems; human transplants; mines; and defining right and wrong depending on time and place; international law; the role of women in society; the limitations of freedom; encounters with infidelity and groups that follow infidelity; the performance of religious duties; aerial and space matters; and the definition of the guardianship of the jurisconsult. These are what the imam has told us to study. The ordinary expression of opinion and judgment by religious seminaries is not enough. A revision is necesary in these matters.

God willing, those individuals who have the intellectual qualifications and writing ability will benefit from this divine guidance and will raise these topics. Last year I raised some issues under the title of jurisprudence [faqih] and the requirements of the time. I talked about them in some sessions. Now, after hearing the imam's remarks, I have decided, God willing, to follow the issues on my own part if there is some opportunity. However, this task cannot be accomplished by 1, 2, 10 or 100 individuals. There must be a general public debate on these topics.

Majlis Speaker Criticizes Past 'Crude' Policy

LD1911083288 Tehran IRNA in English
0809 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi earlier this week handed to Iranian officials a message from unidentified Christian authorities requesting Iran's mediation for Terry Waite's release from captivity. Terry Waite, envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury is in the hands of Lebanese Muslims sympathetic with Iran.

The Persian daily ABRAR in its Saturday issue quotes Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in relation with the report saying that the Islamic government has a sway in Lebanon but that Terry Waite's release from captivity is simply another issue.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was responding to questions by a mixed group of university students and local government administrators in Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Friday said in future the Islamic Republic should adhere to its independent foreign policy without trying to make enemies. He commented that during the past few years the Islamic government could have exercised its policies without necessarily antagonizing such countries as Kuwait and France.

The Majlis speaker said if Iran had demonstrated a little more tactfulness in her dealings with the two countries they would not have supported Iraq in its war with Iran. He said despite the inherent hostility with Islam in the Western world, Iran is now in a position to make good on her previously crude diplomacy so that in the event Iran should happen to be embroiled in just another war other countries will not side with Iran's enemy.

Responding to a question on the extent of future government control on business ventures and development projects he said that the Constitution has expressly defined the limits of such control. He added that in future the Iranian Government will supervise business ventures in the reconstruction of Iran, but that it will exercise a reasonable amount of supervision and intervention to check profiteers.

Asked whether Iran might get foreign loans to finance national reconstruction plans Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the proposition is still an open question, and that alternative courses as well are now being studied.

Besharati, Soviet Envoy Discuss Afghanistan

LD1911161988 Tehran IRNA in English
1617 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Afghanistan has had enough of destruction and it is time the mujahidin and other Afghan Muslims attained their legal rights, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati told the Soviet ambassador.

In his meeting with Vladimir V. Gudev today, the first deputy foreign minister said Iran is ready to cooperate for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops and would help Afghan Muslims determine their country's fate.

Expansion of bilateral ties was also stressed at the meeting, in which Gudev explained Moscow's viewpoints on the Afghan issue.

Agreement on Gas Supply to USSR Signed

LD2011071488 Tehran IRNA in English
0700 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Iran will sell natural gas to the Soviets as agreed in Moscow Saturday. The agreement was signed by Iran's Foreign Ministry Director General for European Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi and Soviet Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev. The initial yearly sale will be 3 billion cubic meters.

The agreement revives a previous one between Iran and the USSR which was aborted shortly after the culmination of the Islamic revolution due to disputes between the Iranians and the Soviets over price rates as well as political issues.

The Soviet and Iranian officials have also agreed on new economic projects including water, electricity and steel.

Katushev expressed pleasure with the expansion of bilateral economic relations between the two countries and said they will have a good impact on good neighbourly relations.

Va'ezi told the Soviet official that the realistic approach to bilateral relations by the Soviets had paved the way for promotion of Tehran-Moscow ties.

Va'ezi also met with other officials from the Soviet Foreign Ministry and its Ministry of Roads, and discussed bilateral cooperation in related fields.

Delegates from Iran and the Soviet Union are now drafting a protocol for the 11th economic session between the two countries

USSR Envoy, Majlis Official Stress Ties

LD2011102588 Tehran IRNA in English
1006 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20 IRNA—Soviet Ambassador to Tehran Vladimir V. Gudev met with Majlis Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi here Saturday.

During the meeting the Soviet diplomat stressed strengthening of bilateral ties. He said that his government feels an urgent need to promote its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran which, he said, has a leading position in the Middle East.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi in response emphasised the need for bilateral cooperation with due respect by each country to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of the other.

In Moscow Saturday Iranian Foreign Ministry official Mahmud Va'ezi and Chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev signed an agreement for re-flowing Iran's natural gas to the Soviet Union after an almost nine-year interruption due to discrepancies between the two countries.

Tehran on 'Real Activities' of Iraqi Diplomats

LD1911163188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] According to news agency reports, last month three members of the Iraqi Embassy in London were expelled due to activities incompatible with their duties. The report about the expulsion of those three was just announced by British newspapers, despite the silence of officials in London. Perhaps the main reason behind the silence of the British Government has been the fact that Britain does not wish to harm its basic relations with Iraq.

The relations between the British Government and the Baghdad regime have always been on the ascendance, despite the Iraqi regime's continued use of chemical weapons against the nation's Kurds. Regardless of the international behavior and the political nature of the regime ruling over Iraq, London officials are trying to further expand commercial and trade relations with Baghdad purely within the context of British interests.

Following the declaration of the ceasefire, major British companies, in order to gain access to the Iraqi markets and to earn more petrodollars, have shown great interest in Iraq's reconstruction in that country's development plans. British companies participated extensively in Baghdad's international fair and have provided credit and financial facilities for Iraq under conditions when the condemnation of chemical weapons by Iraq is still continuing.

In this connection, in addition to the activities of British companies, the Conservative government in London has earmarked 175 million pounds of credit for Iraq; and next year this figure will be increased to 400 million pounds. Apart from financial relations, the British Government, by ignoring the spying activities of the members of the Iraqi Embassy in surveillance and persecution of the opponents of the regime of Baghdad, as well as students and political activists of that country, has tried to ensure that its good relations with Iraq are not harmed.

It should be noted that the same practice was also observed in the United States, Iraq's main political ally, last week. Following the expulsion of the political officer of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, the United States, in order to prevent further complications in U.S.-Iraqi relations, refrained from announcing the expulsion of the U.S. diplomat. The expulsion of the U.S. diplomat from Baghdad, which was reported by one of the newspapers in that country—in view of the expanding nature of relations between the two countries and the allocation of a $2 billion credit for Iraq—will not be followed by anything apart from the reciprocal expulsion of an Iraqi diplomat from Washington.

Regardless of the reaction of some governments regarding the activities of the Iraqi missions, however, the expulsion of three members of the Iraqi Embassy in London once again proved the fact that the Iraqi regime—under diplomatic cover—is bent on the surveillance or even the assassination of its opponents throughout the world.

The assassination of the martyr Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, the Iraqi struggler, in Sudan that was carried out last year—and the witnesses emphasized that the assassin fled in a car from the Iraqi Embassy—is an example of the real activities of that country's missions in different countries which are carried out contrary to international norms and the customary behavior of governments, without any consideration of legal standards.

More 'Convalescing' POW's To Be Exchanged

LD2111112288 Tehran IRNA in English
1001 GMT 21 Nov

[Text] Tehran Nov. 21, IRNA—Another group of convalescing Iranian and Iraqi prisoners of war are to be repatriated this Thursday, according to a war prisoners official here today. Their release is due also to the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

On various occasions previously Iran released large numbers of sick or wounded Iraqi prisoners unilaterally. The total number of wounded and ailing Iraqi prisoners according to the ICRS is 1,158.

The remaining group of convalescing war prisoners are be periodically repatriated during December 5-31.

5 Kilograms of Heroin Discovered in Packages

LD1911180588 Tehran IRNA in English
1118 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., Nov. 19, IRNA—The post office discovered about five kilograms of heroin in two parcel posts here today. The narcotics were hidden in two vegetable oil tins addressed to a recipient in another province. The sender of the parcel was arrested.

Pakistan

Afghan Aircraft Shot Down; All on Board Killed

BK2011153088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] An Afghan military aircraft, which intruded into Pakistani airspace in Kurram Agency last night, was shot down from the ground near Parachinar. The wreckage of the aircraft fell inside Pakistani territory. The plane caught fire as it fell. All on board were killed.

A press release of the Army Public Relations Department says that now Pakistani airspace is being violated frequently. According to the press release, the Kabul regime has been warned time and again that the full responsibility for these acts will rest with it and Pakistan will safeguard its airspace. A protest has been lodged with the Kabul regime.

The headquarters of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan has been requested to investigate this incident.

Foreign Minister Denies Geneva Accord Violations

BK2111051488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that air and ground violations and sabotage activities by the Kabul regime against Pakistan since the signing of the Geneva accords have resulted in the deaths of 134 innocent civilians. In a letter to the president of the UN Security Council, the foreign minister said during this period, the Kabul regime has carried out 104 violations in the air and 328 on the ground, besides engineering 96 incidents of sabotage in Pakistan.

He described as totally baseless the Kabul regime's allegations about violation of the Geneva accords by Pakistan. He said under the Geneva accords, the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] is responsible for investigating the complaints and recommending appropriate action in case the complaints are substantiated.

However, the Kabul regime, after failing to prove its allegations, has ignored the agreed mechanism and instead drawn the Security Council's attention to its fictitious accusations. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the Kabul regime's claim that the jurisdiction of the UNGOMAP's activities has been curtailed is not factually correct. Pakistan has fully cooperated with the UN mission by allowing it to set up bases in Peshawar and Quetta, which are very close to the border. The UNGOMAP teams have undertaken more than 20 inspection tours of the area.

The foreign minister pointed out that Afghan refugees have thus far not been able to return to their homes because of the instability and continuing turmoil in Afghanistan, which are the result of the oppressive policies of the unrepresentative regime in Kabul.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan also referred to the recent acquisition by the Kabul regime of the highly sophisticated weapons, including SS-1 Scud missiles, MiG-27 aircraft, and Backfire fighter-bombers. The induction and installation of these weapons in Afghanistan, and, in certain cases, their use against Pakistan's territory, betray the Kabul regime's claim of its compliance with the Geneva accords to find a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

The foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to find a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghanistan problem in accordance with the Geneva accords and the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly.

Spokesman on Gorbachev Remarks on Afghanistan

BK2111024788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] An official spokesman in Islamabad has stated that Pakistan remains committed to the full implementation of the Geneva accords and hopes that all other parties concerned will do the same. The spokesman stated this while commenting on President Gorbachev's statement last week in New Delhi that Pakistan and the United States have taken certain actions which indicate that they want the Soviet Union to rescind the Geneva accords.

The spokesman recalled that the Geneva negotiations process had begun at the request of Pakistan and had resulted in the finalization of Geneva accords in April this year. Pakistan has always stated that the Geneva accords pave the way for a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghanistan problem, which will help establish a durable peace and enable the refugees to return to their homeland.

The spokesman said the Pakistani Government hopes that no party will go back on its commitments under the Geneva accords, as such an action would jeopardize the possibilities of a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan and would deal a severe blow to the international community's confidence generated by Geneva accords.

Reportage on Elections, Government Formation

Sharif 'Confident' on Government

BK1911021388 Hong Kong AFP in English 2036 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Nov 18 (AFP)—Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) leader Nawaz Sharif said here Friday that his nine-party alliance was confident of forming the next government with the support of independents and centre parties.

In Wednesday's general elections, Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) emerged as the leading single group with 92 seats out of 204 followed by the nine-party IJI with 55. Both groups were reportedly making hectic efforts to muster support from the independent candidates to form a coalition government.

Mr. Sharif, current chief minister of Punjab, is believed to have met with leaders of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) which won 13 National Assembly seats in the elections. But nothing is known about the outcome of the negotiations believed to have covered the prospect of IJI's bid to form the government.

Ms Bhutto told a press conference Friday that the PPP was also in contact with the MQM leadership about forming a coalition in southern Sind Province.

Mr. Sharif's arrival here Friday was kept a secret and was confirmed only when his statement was released by the official news agency ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP). In his statement, he said all the independents in the provinces of Punjab and North West Frontier Province supported the IJI and this would become clear in next few days.

The general elections were the first on a party-basis after 11 years of military rule under General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who died in a plane crash on August 17.

Elections for Assemblies Begin

BK1911053488 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Polling began today in the elections for 459 Muslim seats and 22 non-Muslim seats of the four provincial assemblies in the country. There are long queues of voters awaiting their turn to cast their ballots. Forty-eight million registered voters are eligible to exercise their right of franchise. The number of candidates for the Muslim seats is 3,523—1,549 candidates nominated by political parties and 1,972 independents [numbers as heard]. [passage omitted]

The counting of votes will begin soon after the end of polling, in the presence of the candidates or their agents. The government has made appropriate arrangements to maintain law and order throughout the country so that the voters can exercise their right of franchise without any fear or pressure.

'Broad-Based' Government Urged

BK1911161588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] General Aslam Beg, the Armed Forces chief, has personally thanked leaders of major political parties and groups—Nawaz Sharif of Islamic Democratic Alliance; Mrs Nusrat Bhutto of Pakistan People's Party; Altaf Hussain of Muhajir Qaumi Movement; and Maulana Fazlur Rahman of Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam—for successful conclusion of the elections. He reminded them of the responsibility that has been reposed on them.

He stressed the need for creating consensus and laying the foundation of a broad-based popular government. General Beg said that the way the political parties controlled their workers and made wholehearted cooperation with the government in conducting free and fair elections in an extremely peaceful atmosphere deserves commendation.

The Armed Forces chief also spoke highly of the role played by the Armed Forces to maintain law and order in the critical time during and before the elections. He said that the exemplary manner in which the Election Commission conducted the general elections is also commendable.

25 Injured in Violence

BK1911150088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1405 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Multan, Pakistan, Nov 19 (AFP)—Twenty-five people were wounded when groups repesenting rival parties in Pakistan's provincial elections Saturday exchanged fire near two polling booths in this Punjab town, witnesses said.

They said activists of the right-wing Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) were accused of setting on fire two tents of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) near the booths and PPP workers responded by burning down two of the IJI's tents.

The two groups then started a gun battle that lasted more than 45 minutes, and police also opened fire to try to disperse the activists, witnesses said.

Twenty-five people, including a policeman, were wounded by gunfire before troops were called in to bring the situation under control, they said. The incident disrupted polling for more than an hour at the two polling booths, they said, adding that no arrests were made.

Three people received stab wounds in a separate clash in nearby Mian Chanoo, and minor scuffles were reported from the Punjab capital of Lahore. The incidents were the first reported as Pakistanis voted to elect provincial assemblies in Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan and North West Frontier Provinces.

Bhutto Fails To Win in Punjab

BK2011094488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 20 Nov 88

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 20 (AFP)—Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) failed to overcome its main rival in Punjab in weekend provincial elections, forcing it to seek support from independents to form a government in the country's largest province.

It won an absolute majority in Sind, Ms. Bhutto's home province in the south of the country, as the results of Saturday's balloting were reported Sunday.

But official returns showed that in Punjab, the right-wing Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) had won 107 seats in the 240-seat legislature after a closely fought campaign—more than any other party, but still not enough to form a government.

The PPP took 94 seats with independents claiming the rest. By mid-day Sunday three constituencies remained to be declared. PPP lawyer Aitezaz Ahsan acknowledged his party would have to seek the support of independents in order to form a government. But he added confidently: "We have assurances from independents from Punjab."

The provincial elections followed a National Assembly vote Wednesday—the first since 1977 to be fought on a party-versus-party basis—in which the PPP won enough seats to form a minority national government if it can garner support from independents.

The PPP won handily in Sind, its stronghold that includes the port city of Karachi, winning 67 of the 100 seats at stake. Independents and small parties won 32 seats, but the IJI managed only one—with Chief Minister Akhtar Ali Kazi and members of his cabinet all suffering personal defeats.

In North West Frontier Province, Chief Minister Fazle Haq, a colleague of late President Mohammed Ziaul Haq, lost in all four constituencies he contested. But the IJI, to which he belonged, captured 29 seats in the 80-member house, against 20 for the PPP and 12 for the left-wing Awami National Party, whose pro-Moscow leader Abdul Wali Khan suffered personal defeat in Charsadda. Independents and fringe parties won the remaining seats.

Analysts said that in North West Frontier Province, the PPP could form a coalition with the Awami National Party, while the IJI would bank on support from the independents and small parties.

For the 40-member Baluchistan assembly, the situation appeared to favour the IJI as it won eight seats against three for the PPP. Regional fringe parties and independents otherwise held sway.

Saturday's elections were largely peaceful, as they had been Wednesday, though two people were reported dead in Punjab after rival groups engaged in a gun battle.

The outcome of the provincial elections have an important bearing on national politics, as the four legislatures, plus the Senate and National Assembly, comprise the electoral college that picks Pakistan's president.

Ms Bhutto has said the PPP can demonstrate its strength in the National Assembly and that current President Ghulam Ishaq Khan must invite her to form the new government. But IJI leader Nawaz Sharif, who has not given up hope of assuming power, has suggested that Mr. Khan not hurry to nominate his pick for premier. Observers say Mr. Sharif is looking for time in order to emerge victorious in Punjab, on grounds that if the PPP fails to form a provincial government there, it should not rule the whole nation either.

PPP Alleges 'Massive' Rigging

BK2011103288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1025 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Nov 20 (AFP)—Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) sources here Sunday charged that there was widespread poll rigging in favour of the rightwing Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) in provincial polls in Punjab.

The sources in the Sind city of Karachi said that poll rigging explained how the IJI had won provincial assembly seats in provincial polls Saturday in many areas in Punjab where the PPP had won in national elections on Wednesday.

PPP leader Benazir Bhutto was not immediately available for comment on the provincial polls, but sources said she would give a detailed statement later.

Party sources said one PPP worker died in a clash between PPP and IJI supporters in the town of Gujar Khan in Punjab on Saturday. PPP workers in the town had protested alleged poll rigging there, the sources added.

The IJI took 108 of the 240 seats in the Punjab provincial assembly against 94 for the PPP, according to final official results. The remaining 38 seats in the largest of Pakistan's four provinces went to fringe parties and independents.

President To Meet Leaders

BK2011153988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has decided to hold consultations with leaders of political parties that have emerged as major groups following the general elections on the formation of next federal government. This was stated by Federal Justice Minister Wasim Sajjad in a statement in Islamabad today.

He said that the president is expected to meet Pakistan People's Party co-chairman Mrs Benazir Bhutto and Islamic Democratic Alliance chief Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad on Tuesday [23 November].

The next day, the president will meet Altaf Hussain of Muhajir Qaumi Movement and Maulana Fazlur Rahman of Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam.

On Thursday, the president will hold talks with Wali Khan of Awami National Party and other party leaders.

Wasim Sajjad said that the president, in separate meetings with these leaders, will exchange views on important political issues. Letters inviting them to the meetings are being sent.

Minister, Chief Minister Quit

BK2011154988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Elahi Bux Sumro [information and broadcasting and water and power minister] has tendered his resignation from the federal cabinet to the president after his defeat in the National Assembly elections.

Northwest Frontier Province Governor Amir Gulistan Janjua has asked the acting chief minister of the province, retired Lieutenant General Fazle Haq, who has resigned following his failure to be elected to the Provincial Assembly, to continue in office until appropriate arrangements are made for the new government.

Gandhi Praises Elections

BK2011155888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has sent felicitations to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on successful and peaceful conclusion of general elections. In his message, the Indian prime minister said that he hopes that the democratic process will prosper in Pakistan in the days to come under the sagacious leadership of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Bhutto on Army Chief Remarks

BK2111080988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that the people of Pakistan have rendered their verdict in the general elections by overwhelmingly voting for her party and the choice should be honored.

Ms Bhutto told newsmen at her residence in Karachi that a suggestion by Army Chief of Staff General Aslam Beg to evolve a national consensus government was unrealistic. She said if there was a need for a national consensus government, the caretaker government formed after former President General Ziaul Haq dissolved the National Assembly in May could have been converted into broad-based government.

The PPP chief said she was confident that enough independents have joined hands with her party to give it a simple majority. Ms Bhutto said that if one of the parties of the IDA [Islamic Democratic Alliance] came to her and some common ground was evolved, she was prepared to consider them.

Sri Lanka

EPRLF Wins Provincial Council Elections

BK2011135888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1350 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 20 (AFP)—A former Tamil militant group turned political party won weekend elections for an autonomous regional council, part of an Indian-backed peace plan for Sri Lanka, it was announced here Sunday.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) won 17 seats in Saturday's balloting in Eastern Province, giving it a clear majority in the new North Eastern Provincial Council.

No votes had been cast in Northern Province, as the EPRLF had won all 36 seats there by acclamation and gave 12 seats to a Tamil ally under a no-contest pact. Election officials said the Sri Lanka Moslem Congress won 17 seats. Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party managed to get only one of the 35 seats at stake in the east.

The vote was to elect an autonomous council for the Tamil-dominated north and multi-ethnic east, in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord designed to give Tamils more powers and end a bloody separatist conflict.

Officials said at least 65 percent of 635,516 eligible voters took part. Sri Lanka's minority Tamils and Moslems turned out in full strength, while fewer Sinhalese, who form the nation's majority community, cast ballots, results showed. Sinhalese, Tamils and Moslems live in almost equal numbers in the east, a hotbed of communal violence in the past five years.

Balloting was marred by a shortage of personnel to supervise polling and at least 1,500 people in Batticaloa, one of three districts in the east, could not vote, residents said. The polling was conducted under heavy security involving thousands of Indian soldiers and paramilitary policemen.

'Thumping Majority' Secured

BK2011080888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the EPRLF and its allies have secured a thumping majority of 50 seats from 7 districts in the 71-member Northeastern Provincial Council. Fourteen seats of Amparai District will be divided among the contested parties in accordance with the ratio of votes received. In Trincomalee, the EPRLF has won 16 seats, and 4 have gone in favor of Sri Lankan Muslim Congress.

In Batticaloa, the EPRLF and its ally, the ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front], have secured eight seats, and the Sri Lankan Muslim Congress won only three seats. In Amparai District, Sri Lankan Muslim Congress has performed well, polling over 66,100 votes. EPRLF secured 40,600 votes, and the UNP 8,200 votes. In this ratio, the 14 seats of Amparai District will be divided among the parties.

Reports say that the jubilant civilians thronged several places in the Trincomalee Town and other parts of the province. The biggest turnout of votes in all the places, according to political observers, clearly indicate the outright rejection of the LTTE leadership, weapon domination, and the people's desire for democratic rule. [sentence as heard]

Staff Shortages Affect Voting

BK1911124988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Nov 19 (AFP) - Regional polls to implement an Indian-backed peace plan in eastern Sri Lanka were marred Saturday by threats and a shortage of staff, depriving thousands of their franchise, officials and residents said.

There were long queues outside polling booths in Tamil areas of the province, but they moved slowly as in most cases only one official was supervising voting, residents contacted by telephone said. When the polls, held to create an autonomous council devolving powers to minority Tamils, closed after eight and half hours, at least 1,500 people had yet to vote in Batticaloa District alone, officials and residents said. In two polling stations in Batticaloa District balloting had not even started three hours after the scheduled opening because lists of voters had been sent to the wrong booths, they said. "There is utter confusion and chaos. In some areas, three polling booths have been grouped into one and was manned by just one official. We have asked the officials to extend the closing time," a spokesman for a Tamil party said. Local officials said they could not extend voting in the election, which was held in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord aimed at ending a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), a Tamil militant group turned political party, was contesting the polls against the ruling United National Party and the minor Sri Lanka Moslem Congress. The election was reportedly incident-free, although observers said some voters were discouraged by boycott calls by the most powerful Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front). Both groups are opposed, for different reasons, to the peace accord.

Military officials said the JVP had clamped a "curfew" in Ampara District, heavily populated by Sinhalese, in a bid to prevent people there from voting. New Delhi, which has some 49,000 troops in the north and east, deployed some 1,200 paramilitary troops to guard polling booths, Indian officials here said. Officials said there was heavy turnout of minority Tamils and Moslems but fewer Sinhalese, the island's majority community, voted. The three communities live in almost equal numbers in the eastern province.

A total of 635,516 people were eligible to vote to set up a united council joining the Tamil-dominated northern and multi-ethnic eastern provinces. There was no balloting in the north where the EPRLF had secured all seats in the area uncontested, some of which it has decided to share with its close ally the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF).

Prominent Tamil citizens reached by telephone said apart from delays they were pleased with the conduct of Saturday's election. The deputy elections commissioner here, W. D. L. Perera, admitted that there had been a shortage of staff but said that under the difficult circumstances he was pleased with the results.

Government Recognizes Palestinian State

BK1811133088 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has recognized the Palestinian state. Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed has sent a message to PLO leader Yasir Arafat in this connection.

The message says, in accordance with the proposal of President Jayewardene, that the Government of Sri Lanka recognizes the Palestinian state, which was (?proclaimed) by the Palestinian National Youth Council in Algiers on 15 November. Mr Shahul Hameed has also conveyed his best wishes for the future of the Palestinian state.